

# STARS AND STRIPES®

**Despite setbacks,  
Weisbaden wrestler  
to pursue title**

Home Team, Page 49



**Dresden rises from ashes of  
war, communism; plus Easter  
egg markets, King Tut exhibit**

Travel magazine inside



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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2005

50¢

# For many servicemembers child care is No. 1 issue

Enlisted leaders speak before new military quality-of-life panel **Page 5**



MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

**Teens battle the bulge** **Page 3**

Instructor Brian Morgan, left, does exercises with, from front to back, Annan Morelli, David Loffert, Michael Hendrix and David Patterson during a teen fitness course in Darmstadt, Germany. A new program teaches teens the importance of exercise and being fit.

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## News Tracker ... What's new with old news

## States

**N.Y. mail shooting:** A preliminary hearing was scheduled Wednesday in Kingston, N.Y., for a man accused of firing dozens of rounds from an assault rifle as he strode into a crowded suburban mall, injuring two men and terrifying shoppers.

Robert Bonelli Jr., 25, was arrested on assault and reckless endangerment charges after he lowered the weapon and surrendered Sunday afternoon at Hudson Valley Mall.

**CIA leak investigation:** The lawyer for two reporters facing jail for refusing to divulge their sources about the leak of an undercover CIA officer's name says it will challenge a ruling by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit ordering them to talk.

Floyd Abrams said he will ask the full appeals court to reverse the order compelling Time magazine's Matthew Cooper and The New York Times' Judith Miller to testify before a federal grand jury about their confidential sources.

The special prosecutor in the case, Chicago U.S. Attorney Patrick Fitzgerald, is investigating whether a crime was committed when someone leaked the identity of CIA officer Valerie Plame.

**Deadly Ky. plant explosion:** A fiery explosion that killed seven people and injured 37 at a Corbin, Ky., insulation factory in 2003 could have been prevented if managers and regulators had addressed a buildup of flammable dust, a federal investigation concluded Tuesday.

The U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board determined that the Feb. 20, 2003, blast at the CTA Acoustics plant was due to combustible dust that accumulated to unsafe levels and was ignited by an open oven door. The door was left open, the investigators said, to cool the oven because the temperature control had been malfunctioning for several days.

**Cuban refugee detentions:** Nearly 150 Cuban refugees convicted of crimes and imprisoned in the years following the 1980 Mariel boatlift have been released, a newspaper reported Tuesday.

The Miami Herald, citing an unnamed federal official, reported that at least 147 Mariel convicts have been released since last month's Supreme Court decision that found the indefinite detention of illegal immigrants is unconstitutional.

Cuban president Fidel Castro in 1980 sent criminals and psychiatric patients to U.S. shores from the port of Mariel, along with thousands of other fleeing Cubans. Some of the refugees were convicted of crimes in the United States.

**Va. Route 29 Stalker:** A Prince William County, Va., judge on Monday issued a limited gag order in the case of the man accused of being the "Route 29 Stalker" in the mid-1990s. Monday's hearing was one of several pretrial hearings in the case of Darrell D. Rice, 37. Prosecutors believe Rice convinced more than a dozen women to stop in



**Slaying of missionary:** The coffin of American missionary Dorothy Stang is carried Monday in Anapu, Brazil. Thousands of people, from peasants to politicians, gathered to bury Stang, a nun from Ohio who was gunned down Saturday at a settlement where she worked to protect the Amazon rain forest and its poor residents from encroaching loggers and ranchers. On Wednesday, about 2,000 soldiers were being sent to restore order in the region amid escalating violence. As mourners paid their last respects to Stang, 73, two assailants gunned down Daniel Soares da Costa, the former president of Parapuebas' Rural Workers Union.

the Route 29 corridor by convincing them there was something wrong with their vehicles.

**SNAKEHEAD FISH:** A group of Western country commissioners who have problems with the Endangered Species Act has petitioned the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to have the northern snakehead, an Asian fish that's invaded the East, protected under the act.

The commissioners hope their petition will show lawmakers in the East what problems the act presents to officials in the West.

The large, toothy fish has been dubbed the "Frankenfish." It can grow up to 3 feet, breathe air and wriggle around land.

## Business

**HealthSouth trial:** Defense lawyers for Richard Scrushy closed their cross-examination of the prosecution's key witness with sharp questioning that sought to depict HealthSouth Corp.'s ex-finance chief to jurors in Birmingham, Ala., as a tax-dodging, manipulative liar.

The defense contends that former CFO Bill Owens orchestrated the massive fraud at the rehabilitation giant. Owens maintained that Scrushy was behind the scheme to overstate earnings by some \$2.7 billion.

## World

**Kashmir transit:** More than a year of peace talks between Pakistan and India bore fruit Wednesday, with the two sides agreeing to start the first bus service between the capitals of divided Kashmir.

The bus service along a rutted mountain road in the folds of the Himalayas will reconnect families separated for decades by the Pakistani and Indian armies. It also raises hopes that these two nuclear-armed neighbors who have fought three wars since gain-

ing independence from Britain in 1947 might one day find a permanent peace. Pakistani Foreign Minister Khurshid Kasuri said travel would be granted through an "entry permit system" — rather than a passport — once the identities of travelers are verified.

**Bird flu outbreak:** International efforts to combat bird flu in Asia need to be stepped up to forestall a worldwide pandemic, two U.N.-affiliated agencies warned on Wednesday.

The Rome-based Food and Agriculture Organization and the Paris-based World Organization for Animal Health called for funding to help support national anti-bird flu campaigns, especially in the poorest of the affected nations.

**Thatcher's son:** The son of former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher will appear in a South Africa court Friday to answer questions about a botched coup attempt in Equatorial Guinea, his lawyer said Wednesday.

Thatcher, who has lived in South Africa since 1995, pleaded guilty last month to violating South Africa's anti-mercenary laws by unwittingly helping to finance last year's coup attempt in the oil-rich West African nation. He admitted financing a helicopter despite suspicions that it might be used for military purposes.

**Cat Stevens cases:** Two British newspapers said Tuesday they had paid unspecified damages to the singer once known as Cat Stevens over articles suggesting the Muslim convert had links to terrorists.

The musician, now known as Yusuf Islam, said The Sunday Times and The Sun had promised not to take the allegation and agreed to pay his legal costs and "substantial damages."

Stories and photo from wire services

## Corrections

■ A story in Tuesday's editions about a transfer of authority ceremony in Iraq contained incorrect information. The 3rd Infantry Division is based at Fort Stewart, Ga.

■ The story in Tuesday's editions on the Army's new combat badge contained two errors. The Combat Infantryman Badge and the Close Combat Badge are worn on the left-hand breast pocket. Also, unit patches can be worn on combat patches on the right shoulder if the military operation lasted more than 30 days. There is no time-in-theater requirement.

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# Fitness class aims to cut the fat among teens

## Darmstadt joins military-wide effort

BY JESSICA INIGO

Stars and Stripes

DARMSTADT, Germany — Unfit children and the stagnant lifestyles that cause them to pack on pounds are the subjects of some new initiatives in American military communities.

Both military and school officials recognize that weight gain is a problem among young people, so they're fighting back with exercise programs specifically designed to prevent childhood obesity.

Darmstadt is one of the communities taking on the battle of the bulge. The 23rd Base Support Battalion is offering free after-school classes at the gym to teach teens how to use exercise equipment properly.

"I'm a lot happier these last four weeks of going to the gym. I blow off some steam and hang out and meet people. It's a lot of fun and I feel better," said Annan Morelli, 13, who was the first and only pupil to take on the new Cambrai-Fritsch Casern teen fitness program when it started in January.

Three other teen-fitness regulars now join Annan in the Tuesday and Thursday hour-long gym sessions, along with three students who started Tuesday to train for the upcoming soccer season.

By the end of the eight-week course, the teens, ranging from 13 to 16, will be able to use the gym on their own — along with any others who take the class. Previous military regulations said anyone younger than 17 could use the gym only with constant adult supervision.

The World Health Organization calls childhood obesity a worldwide epidemic. Other organizations, such as the American Obesity Association, place

America at the top of this food chain — owing to its suburban sprawl, videogames and super-size fast food portions.

"Lately, the strongest part of the body on a lot of kids is their thumbs," said Brian Morgan, 38, the 23rd BSB's fitness coordinator who helped develop the Youth Services teen fitness program. "They come home and then just sit behind a computer or TV. It's one of the reasons why obesity in America is at its highest level."

Morgan has personal experience with childhood health problems. Growing up in North Carolina, he was diagnosed with asthma and had many allergies. He said that, at 12, he realized the power of living a healthy lifestyle and has since beaten his problems through exercise.

"These children can make a commitment right now and change their life. You can tackle any goal if you look good and feel good," Morgan said.

The national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said daily enrollment in physical education classes dropped from 42 percent to 13 percent among high school students between 1991 and 2001.

The CDC recommends more and better physical education classes in school to improve children's health.

Military schools are taking the suggestion to heart. Department of Defense Dependents Schools worldwide are adding high school PE classes to their freshman curriculum, said Karen Seadore, the DODDS-Europe health, physical education and athletic coordinator.

The class of 2008 now has an extra semester — or half-year — of PE instruction, making it 1½ years of PE throughout high school.

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Left: Michael Hendrix, 14, warms up at the start of a fitness course for teenagers at the Cambrai gym in Darmstadt, Germany.

Right: Instructor Eddie Bonilla watches Annan Morelli exercise on a Nautilus machine.



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

"I'm a lot happier these last four weeks of going to the gym," said Annan Morelli, doing sit-ups during a teen fitness course at the Cambrai gym. Morelli was the first teen to tackle the class.

# Space man sees no limits in universe

## Patch's Black History Month luncheon gets inspiring speech from pioneering astronaut

BY CHARLIE COON

Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — After returning from space, astronaut Dr. Bernard A. Harris received a phone call from the Rev. Jesse Jackson, who asked him to pray.

"Lord," Jackson said, "we thank you for bringing us from the slave ship to the space ship."

Not everyone earns a personal preaching from the reverend.

Not just anyone can fly into space, either, until they have the dream first. Harris told a full house Wednesday at the 6th Area Support Group's Black History Month Luncheon at the Patch Community Club on Patch Barracks.

"To come from our heritage and to be in space, it's a tremendous blessing for us and our country," said Harris, who 10 years ago this month became the first black to walk in space.

Under slavery, Harris said, blacks had no rights or freedom of expression and could only practice religion under cover of night. But 225 miles away in space, while walking outside the Mir



CHARLIE COON/Stars and Stripes

Dr. Bernard A. Harris Jr., who flew on two space shuttle flights for NASA, told an audience Wednesday at Patch Barracks in Stuttgart, Germany, that desires have a way of resonating with the universe and, if wished for hard enough, become true.

space station, Harris said, he might have seen the Earth as God sees it — as a big blue ball with no borders between countries, states or people.

"From up there, you can see the unlimiteness of the universe," Harris said.

From space, while looking at the great blue ball, Harris said,

he was also reminded of a quote by the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.: "Sooner or later, all the people of the world will have to figure out a way to live together."

"Through my eyes, I saw the vision [King] had of this world," said Harris, 48, of San Antonio.

The dining hall was symbolically decorated with balloons of red for blood, green for prosperity and black for skin, as well as exhibits touting the feats of blacks, such as the writer Toni Morrison, activist Marcus Garvey and entrepreneur Madam C.J. Walker.

Army Sgt. 1st Class Carey Williams, the equal opportunity adviser for the 6th ASG, organized the event, which also included live entertainment. Williams said he hoped it would educate and inspire — and maybe it did.

"It's really exciting to see all the African-Americans who have been really successful in their career fields," said Kimberly Knowles, 17, who toured the exhibits with her 13-year-old brother, Elliot. "And to meet an astronaut — that's awesome, that's so cool."

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# Sub named for Carter to hit seas

Stars and Stripes

The Navy will commission its newest nuclear-powered attack submarine Jimmy Carter on Saturday at Naval Submarine Base Groton in Groton, Conn.

President Carter is the only U.S. president to have qualified in submarines. He served in the Navy for seven years.

Carter graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1946, served as a commissioned officer aboard submarines, and served as commander-in-chief from 1977 to 1981. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2002.

In a time-honored Navy tradition, former first lady Rosalynn Carter will give the first order to "man our ship and bring her to life!" according to the Navy News Service.

The Jimmy Carter is the third and final submarine of the Seawolf class. Capt. Robert D. Kelsos will serve as Jimmy Carter's first commanding officer, leading a crew of 130 officers and sailors.

# Aviano tech sgt. convicted in child porn case

BY KENT HARRIS

Stars and Stripes

AVIANO AIR BASE, Italy — A technical sergeant a month shy of 20 years in the Air Force was convicted Wednesday of manufacturing child pornography and was sentenced to six years in prison — losing what his attorney said was \$1 million in retirement benefits.

David S. Hail, assigned to the 31st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, pleaded guilty to possession of child pornography and was found guilty in a general court-martial of taking nude pictures of the daughter of another airman. The girl's father was deployed when the incident took place on March 11, 2002.

Hail was sentenced to six years in jail, reduction in rank to E-1 and a dishonorable discharge, an Aviano spokesman said.

Capt. Shane Heavener, the prosecutor, had told the six-man, two-woman jury earlier Wednesday during sentencing arguments that Hail had violated the trust the girl's parents had placed in him, as well as dishonored his service with his actions.

"We in the military have to trust each other," he said. "You need to know on deployment that your family is being taken care of."

He said the jury, made up equally of officers and enlisted personnel, needed to send a message to Hail — and the entire military — that such actions would not be tolerated.

"You have a duty to protect society from this child pornographer," he told the jury, recommending a sentence of five years in prison, reduction in rank to E-1 and a dishonorable discharge.

But defense counsel Capt. Chadwick Conn said his client was sorry for his actions, had a series of glowing performance reviews throughout his career and didn't deserve such a tough sentence.

"Don't fail for that, that he is this dangerous, lurking monster," he said. "Not true."

"He is not a danger to society," Conn said a few minutes later. "He's someone who wants to rebuild his life. Give him the tools that make that possible."

Hail faced a maximum of 12 years in prison, forfeiture of all pay, reduction to E-1 and a less-than-honorable discharge.

Heavener said in his arguments that more than 100 pictures of child pornography were found on Hail's computer, downloaded from the Internet. He said that Hail — named the girl's legal guardian in the parents' will —

took pictures of her when she was alone with him at his house. The jury saw some of the pictures that Hail had as evidence.

Conn countered that Hail had taken pictures of the girl, but not abused her. He said the conviction Tuesday branded Hail a sex offender for life and that under federal law, his future neighbors would be made aware of his crimes.

He urged jury members to carefully consider that significant jail time and a dishonorable discharge would impede Hail's ability to support his four children that live with his ex-wife in New York.

"Retirement is gone. He gets nothing for 19 years and 11 months," he said.

"With a punitive discharge, he loses a million bucks," Conn said.

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# Lakenheath students get close-up look at moon

BY RON JENSEN

Stars and Stripes

RAF FELTWELL, England — The moon may sit in an orbit 240,000 miles from Earth, but tiny bits of it were close enough this week for pupils at Lakenheath Middle School to hold in their hands.

"Actually being able to hold it ..." said seventh-grader Stephanie McAnallen, 12, before running out of words to describe the experience.

She did manage to say it was great the school was able to acquire the bits of lunar surface, along with meteorites.

Gregory Klaes, the science teacher at the school, received the other-worldly bits on loan from the Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council in Swindon, England. Having the samples makes learning more meaningful, he said, than just talking about something so far away.

"There was one kid, he didn't want to pass it on," he said of the plastic disc holding six thumb-nail-size samples from the moon.

Klaes is holding an open house in his classroom at 6 p.m. Thursday for parents and families to get a close look at moon samples and meteorites.

The 12 astronauts who walked on the moon, beginning with Apollo 11 in July 1969 and ending with Apollo 17 in December 1972, collected about 1,000 pounds of



Seven samples of moon rocks encased in plastic have been on loan to Lakenheath Middle School this week.

lunar material. Most of it is for study by scientists, but NASA has made some of it available for classrooms.

"It was great to know I was holding billions of dollars of rocks," said Daniel Dorety, 12. He was referring to Klaes' comment about the cost of the moon missions.

Klaes told his pupils, "The last time we went to the moon, it was a contest. We had to beat the Russians. It was not a scientific exercise."

He uses the samples to further lessons about the origins of the universe.

One piece of meteorite, for ex-

ample, came from the surface of Mars, knocked off by the impact of another meteor, and has the fossilized remains of bacteria.

"There could have been living species there," one pupil said when asked what that might mean.

Some scientists have theorized that life on Earth could have grown from such a simple beginning, Klaes said.

However, he added, much research has to be done to find the answer.

"I'm looking at the people," he told his pupils, "who are probably going to find out."

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PHOTOS BY RON JENSEN/Stars and Stripes

Above: Daniel Dorety, 12, a seventh-grader at Lakenheath Middle School at RAF Feltwell, England, examines several samples of the moon during a science class Wednesday.

# Ramstein to break ground on Muslim-Jewish chapel

BY RUSS RIZZO

Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — Ramstein Air Base is expected to break ground Thursday on a \$535,000 addition to the South Side Chapel that will give Jewish and Muslim worshippers their own space to pray and learn.

The building is believed to be the first in the U.S. military specifically designed to meet the needs of Muslim worshippers, said Chaplain (Capt.) Hamza Al-Mubarak, the Muslim chaplain for the Kaiserslaut-

ern military community.

The 4,000-square-foot addition will include two rooms for worship — one for Jews and one for Muslims — that will allow worshippers to face southeast toward Jerusalem and Mecca. Those rooms will be connected by a classroom that can be used by either group as overflow space.



Levy

Muslims in the Kaiserslautern military community now pray in a chapel annex on Pulaski Barracks that was converted for their use in the mid-1980s. Al-Mubarak said Jewish worshippers use a chapel at Vogelweh, said Chaplain (Capt.) Donald Levy, the community's rabbi. Neither space is ideal for their purposes, the chaplains said.

Levy said 20 to 30 people typically attend his weekly service. Al-Mubarak said 40 to 60 people attend his weekly service.

The new annex will create a "happy coincidence" each Friday, Levy said, as Jewish

and Muslim worshippers meet at the same building for prayer.

"We feel that it's important for our two groups, being smaller and little-understood minority groups, to have access to each other," Levy said.

Al-Mubarak said the building provides Christians in the military community with unique access to Muslim classes and literature at a time when soldiers are deployed in Muslim countries.

The building is expected to be finished in July, Levy said.

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# Child care is troops' No. 1 concern

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BY LISA BURGESS  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Child care is the No. 1 concern for servicemembers and their families, three of the military's top four enlisted leaders told members of a new House committee that focuses exclusively on quality-of-life issues.

Inadequate family housing was second.

"Child care has been a huge challenge," Sgt. Major of the Army Kenneth Preston said Wednesday. "If you look at the demographics, most spouses today work [so] the need for child care is very high."

Sgt. Major of the Marine Corps John Estrada also called child care "the No. 1" issue, with "housing as a close second."

The Marine Corps is only meeting 68 percent of its child care needs, Estrada said.

In order to meet a Defense Department mandated standard of providing child care for at least

## Enlisted leaders say adequate housing also is problem

80 percent of those servicemembers who require it, "we'll need at least another 100,000 [child care] spaces," Estrada said.

"Well into the thousands" of child care slots are required in the Air Force, Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald Murray said, listing the issue as the "largest complaint" by airmen, also followed by inadequate housing.

As for the Navy, "there are 6,485 for children under 12 on the waiting list," said Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Terry Scott.

Scott, although he ranked child care second on his list of priorities.

"Housing is No. 1 on my list" out of "concern for our single sailors, and our ability to house them," Scott said.

The four leaders spoke during the first meeting of the House Appropriations Committee's new Military Quality of Life Subcommittee, which brings under one

umbrella housing, health care, education, and other matters that used to be scattered among several House subcommittees.

The issues discussed at the meeting, subcommittee chairman James Walsh, R-N.Y., pledged, "will set the tone for this committee over the coming year" as the Pentagon's fiscal 2006 budget proposal works its way through Congress.

### Moving house

Often citing personal experience, the four service leaders joined together in asking the subcommittee to consider revising the current limits on shipping household goods.

"Anecdotally, between 60 and 70 percent" of the hundreds of enlisted sailors Scott said he has informally polled have had to throw, give away, or sell personal

belongings to meet weight requirements, the Navy leader said.

"A lot of those policies and regulations were established decades ago, and how soldiers live has changed," Preston said. When it comes to "weight allowances for

household goods, there are some inequities there... we'd like to see changed."

"If you ask us... if we could increase our household goods, yes we would," the Air

Force's Murray agreed.

Scott also told the subcommittee about delays of 90 to 120 days that servicemembers must endure before receiving delivery of private motor vehicles shipped to an overseas duty station, as well as "the inconvenience of having to store or sell a vehicle because you're going to Alaska or Hawaii, and you can only ship one vehicle."

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Estrada



Scott



Preston



Murray



## Welcome home, Dad

Left: Gunter Nappe welcomes his dad home from Camp Doha on Tuesday night with a drawing of his father serving in Kuwait. Master Sgt. Todd Nappe is one of 44 members of the 52nd Security Forces Squadron who returned home from a six-month deployment, providing customs duties and base security in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Right: Davante Erskine gives his dad, Tech. Sgt. Anthony Erskine, a hug.



IMIS REIFF/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

## Laser warning system

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon is considering using lasers to warn pilots they've flown into restricted airspace, an unusual choice because the government also says terrorists might use the beams of light to blind pilots as they approach airports.

The North American Aerospace Defense Command, or NORAD, has been researching the use of alternating red and green lasers as a way to communicate with pilots flying too near the Capitol or the White House when they can't be reached by radio.

The low-intensity lights are safe for the eyes, the command said in a statement.

From The Associated Press

## Rota airman gets 6 months after he pleads guilty to obstructing justice

BY BEN MURRAY  
Stars and Stripes

An airman stationed at Naval Station Rota, Spain, was convicted at a court-martial of obstructing justice in the stabbing of a Spanish woman at a night-club last year, Rota officials said Wednesday.

Airman Norwin Gaines, 27, from Rota's Naval Station Air Department, pleaded guilty to charges of conspiracy, carrying a concealed weapon and obstructing of justice. He was accused of disposing of the knife used in the nonfatal attack and lying to investigators after the February 2004 incident at Rota's La Mecca nightclub, Lt. Allie Freeman, base spokeswoman, said in a telephone interview.

The woman with whom Gaines was in a relationship with at the time, Petty Officer 2nd Class Kacy Guebert, 25, has been accused of stabbing the Spanish national.

Guebert has been charged with aggravated assault, conspiracy, carrying a false official statement, obstructing justice and carrying a concealed weapon, Freeman said. Guebert works as an information systems technician in Rota's Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron, Freeman said. No trial date has been set in her case, Freeman said.

Gaines was sentenced to six months' confinement, reduced in rank to E-1 and fined \$3,000, Freeman said.

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# Shiite leaders disagree on candidate

## United Iraqi Alliance to choose between al-Jaafari and Chalabi

BY MAGGIE MICHAEL

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Leaders of the Shiite political alliance that won Iraq's election failed to agree on a single nominee for prime minister Wednesday, with the two candidates insisting on a vote by the alliance's 140 parliamentarians, officials said.

After meeting for hours with Shiite cleric and politician Abdul-Aziz al-Hakim, members of the United Iraqi Alliance agreed to hold a secret ballot to choose between two former exiles, Ibrahim al-Jaafari and Ahmad Chalabi, said Ali Hashim al-Youshaa, an alliance leader who attended the meetings. The vote is expected Friday.

Both candidates were expected to present their political agendas and priorities to alliance members before the vote, al-Youshaa said.

The failure to reach a consensus revealed cracks within the coalition, which consists of 10 major parties backed by Shiite religious leader Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani. But Haydar al-Mousawi, Chalabi's spokesman, denied there was a serious problem.

"No way is there a division inside the alliance. Everybody agreed on adhering to whatever results the internal elections will return," he said.

A close aide to al-Sistani, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the alliance leaders will visit his office in Najaf to get his blessing for their choice for prime minister. If they cannot agree, al-Sistani will decide.

If provisional results stand, the alliance, made up of religious Shiite parties, will have 140 seats in the 275-member National Assembly. At least three other party coalitions



Supporters of Abdul-Aziz al-Hakim, the Shiite alliance's leader, hold aloft his portrait outside his office in Baghdad on Wednesday. Leaders of the winning Shiite political alliance failed to agree on a single nominee for prime minister Wednesday.

that won seats in the assembly had joined the alliance's bloc, adding eight more seats, al-Youshaa said. All 148 prospective parliamentarians will vote in the secret ballot, officials said.

Al-Jaafari leads the Dawa Party, known for its close ties to Iran.

Chalabi, 58, leads the Iraqi National Congress and had close ties to the Pentagon before falling out of favor last year after claims he passed intelligence information to Iran.

A secular Shiite, his Iraqi National Congress is an umbrella for groups that included Iraqi exiles,

Kurds and Shiites. Much of the intelligence his group supplied on Iraq's alleged weapons of mass destruction programs failed to pan out.

The Kurdish parties have apparently agreed to support the alliance's candidate for prime minister in return for the presidency.

Al-Youshaa said both candidates were expected to present their political agendas and priorities to alliance members before the ballot. The race to be the Shiite's pick for prime minister narrowed Tuesday, when Abdul Mahdi, who has close ties to Iran, dropped out.

Al-Hakim, who also has close ties to Iran, has said he is not interested in the prime minister's post.

The competition for the prime minister's post came as the Iraqi Electoral Commission's deadline to file complaints approached.

Commission spokesman Farid Ayar said 25 complaints have been filed so far.

"Most of them are asking for a recount of the votes and we are looking into those requests," he said. "We tell them that we were very accurate in counting the ballots. You know, they just want more votes."

He said he expected the commission to certify the vote totals Thursday, when the official allocation of National Assembly seats would be announced. The assembly picks the president and two vice presidents, and drafts a new constitution.

Once the results are certified, the present government must set a timetable for installing the new government. It is not known how long that might take, and it will depend on back-room dealmaking among the parties.

The clergy-backed United Iraqi Alliance got 48 percent of the vote for the National Assembly, the Kurdish alliance got 26 percent and interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi, a secular Shiite who supported strong ties to Washington, 14 percent. Nine other parties also won seats.

The U.S. military reported Wednesday that a U.S. soldier assigned to the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force was killed in action Tuesday in western Iraq.

U.S. forces also clashed with insurgents in Ramadi and Samarra, and militants attacked American convoys with bombs in the northern city of Mosul, damaging a military vehicle. Several people were injured, witnesses said.

## U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Tuesday, at least 1,464 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,114 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defense Department.

The figures include four military civilians.

The AP count is seven higher than the Defense Department's, last updated at 10 a.m. Tuesday.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ No deaths reported.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Marine Lance Cpl. Richard A. Perez Jr., 19, Las Vegas; died Thursday in Iraq's Anbar province; assigned to Marine Reserve's 6th Motor Transport Battalion, 4th Force Service Support Group, Las Vegas.

Died Sunday in Balad, Iraq, when their vehicle overturned; assigned to the Army's 5th Squadron, 7th Cavalry, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, Ga.

■ Army Spc. Dakotah L. Gooding, 21, Des Moines, Iowa.

■ Army Sgt. Rene Knox Jr., 22, New Orleans.

■ Army Spc. Chad W. Lake, 26, Ocala, Fla.

## Aspiring prime minister al-Jaafari offers moderation

BY MAGGIE MICHAEL

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq — The shy family doctor who emerged Tuesday as the most likely candidate to become Iraq's first democratically elected prime minister says he would make ending the nation's rampant violence his top priority and U.S. troops would remain as long as they were needed to achieve that goal.

In an exclusive Associated Press interview, the moderate Shiite politician, who fled a brutal crackdown by Saddam Hussein in 1980, talked about drafting a constitution that will draw not only on Islam for inspiration.

"Islam should be the official religion of the country, and one of the main sources for legislation, along with other sources that do not harm Muslim sensibilities," he said.

Al-Jaafari, who lived in London and is the leader of the Dawa Party, emerged as the top contender for the prime minister's job Tuesday after his main rival, Adel Abdul Mahdi, dropped out.

Ahmad Chalabi, a former Pentagon favorite, was still in the running, but was considered by many to be a long shot.

"We have two candidates for the alliance, Ahmad Chalabi and Ibrahim al-Jaafari, but al-Jaafari is the most likely to be the alliance candidate," said Humam Hamoudi, a spokesman for the alliance.

In Sunday's results, the United Iraqi Alliance scooped 48 percent of the vote for the National Assembly, the Kurdish alliance took 26 percent and Allawi, a secular Shiite, won only 14 percent.

That could make the Kurds, who like the Shiites were oppressed under Saddam Hussein, the kingmakers in the new Iraq.

The provisional results have yet to be certified by the election commission pending challenges. Once the results are certified, the present government must set a timetable for installing the new government, a process that could take weeks.

Al-Jaafari, 58, acknowledged that recent deals reached between Iraq's religious parties pointed toward his victory.

"I hear from here and there, but I can't tell to what extent it is a consensus," he said. "I feel like some of our brothers are convinced, but it takes time to reach consensus."

Al-Jaafari said if he is confirmed as prime minister, he would first try to stymie the violence that has crippled the country's recovery from decades of war and hardship.

"The security situation is at the top, as it is a pressing element," al-Jaafari said. He also said he would not push for the United States and its allies to withdraw their troops from Iraq any time soon.

"Blood is being spilled and the land is under attack," he said. "How about if we decided to get these troops out of Iraq?"



Ibrahim al-Jaafari, interim vice president and face of the Islamic Dawa Party, is likely to be the Shiite candidate for Iraqi prime minister.

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# Kidnapped journalist pleads for life in video

By TODD PITMAN  
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Sobbing and clapping her hands together in prayer, kidnapped Italian journalist Giuliana Sgrena appeared on a new video Wednesday pleading for her life and calling on U.S.-led troops to pull out of Iraq.

"You must end the occupation; it's the only way we can get out of this situation," Sgrena said in the videotape, delivered anonymously-

ly to Associated Press Television News.

Rocking back and forth and struggling to hold back tears, Sgrena appeared alone in the brief footage, only her shadow visible on a white background behind her. In the upper left corner of the image, the words "Mujabadeen Without Borders" appeared in digital red Arabic script.

"I ask the Italian government, the Italian people struggling against the occupation, I ask my



In this image taken from video released Wednesday, a woman who identified herself as kidnapped Italian journalist Giuliana Sgrena pleads for her life and calls on U.S.-led troops to pull out of Iraq.

husband, please, help me," Sgrena said in French. "You must do all you can to end the occupation. I'm counting on you, you can help me."

The 56-year-old reporter for the communist daily Il Manifesto was kidnapped by unidentified gunmen in a hail of gunfire on Feb. 4 near Baghdad University. Since then, conflicting claims about her case have appeared on Islamic militant Web sites. One said she had been killed, another said she would soon be released, and yet another said her fate depended on whether Italy would quickly withdraw troops from Iraq.

The Italian Foreign Ministry has said it has doubts about all such Web statements.

In the videotape, Sgrena spoke in Italian and French and wore a light green jacket and

shirt. She appeared in good health, but looked tired and was clearly anxious, locking her fingers together and shaking her hands as if begging.

At one point, her eyes watering as she struggled to recite her message, she waved the camera to stop.

"Nobody should come to Iraq at this time," she said. "Not even journalists. Nobody."

Last week, Sgrena's newspaper said it had indications she is alive and that intelligence officials had established indirect contact with the kidnappers.

It is not known who kidnapped the journalist. Italy has said it will not pay a ransom to win her release.

Italian government officials and Sgrena's colleagues have publicized the journalist's pacifist convictions, but hopes it might help win her release.

## Italian Senate backs keeping troops in Iraq

ROME — The Senate voted Wednesday to extend Italy's troop deployment in Iraq through June, hours after the nation heard a wrenching, televised appeal by an Italian journalist held hostage in Iraq.

Giuliana Sgrena begged Italians to "put pressure on the government" for the withdrawal of troops. The video, delivered anonymously to Associated Press Television News in Baghdad, was shown repeatedly on Italian networks.

The Senate voted by 141 to 112 to extend funding for the Iraq mission, with one abstention. The motion must now go to the lower house for final approval.

Premier Silvio Berlusconi's center-right coalition has a comfortable majority in both houses of Parliament.

Italy's contingent, which currently includes some 3,250 troops, is one of the largest contributors to the U.S.-coalition. "Who is asking us not to stay in Iraq? It is the terrorists who are asking," said Domenico Nania, a senator for government coalition partner National Alliance, said just before the vote. "What counts today is what is right for the Iraqi people and for this we have to show all our solidarity in this work of reconstruction."

— The Associated Press

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2003 Honda Civic EX	4X4 Power Windows 5 Speed Alloy CD 13,000 Miles	\$13,900
2003 Toyota Mirai	Cabrio Leather Power Group Alloy CD 13,000 Miles	\$21,900
2003 Dodge Neon SXT	Auto AC Power Windows Lock LOW MILES	\$9,900
2002 Ford Focus ZX5	5 Speed AC Power Windows Lock LOW MILES	\$11,900
2001 Chrysler PT Cruiser	4X4 AC Power Windows Lock LOW MILES ONE OWNER	\$12,900
2001 Toyota Tacoma	4X4 AC Power Windows Lock LOW MILES ONE OWNER	\$16,900
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2001 Nissan Altima	4X4 AC Power Windows Lockers CD Alarm	\$16,900
2001 Hyundai Tiburon	AC Power Windows Lockers CD Alarm	\$8,900
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## Police find 8 gagged corpses in Iraq

U.S. forces, insurgents clash; bombs explode near U.S. convoys

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Police on Wednesday found the bodies of eight Iraqis, mostly civilians who'd been wounded in a U.S. military base, gagged and shot in the back of the head north of the Iraqi capital.

Elsewhere, U.S. forces clashed with insurgents in the cities of Ramadi and Samarra, and militants attacked U.S. convoys with bombs in the northern city of Mosul.

The eight Iraqis had been missing since they were kidnapped three days ago by insurgents, said Mohammed Latif, chief of the local police force in Dejali, about 40 miles north of Baghdad.

The bodies were found in shallow graves in a desert area. Each corpse had been tightly bound around the legs and arms, their mouths taped shut. A piece of paper was attached to each body, on which was written: "This is the punishment of the traitors and those who work for the American occupation," Latif said.

In Ramadi, 70 miles west of the capital, insurgents fired more than 25 mortar rounds at U.S. and Iraqi positions, including a group of American troops hunkered in an abandoned glass factory, witnesses said.

The attack sparked clashes in several parts of the city afterward, and American troops scaled off a southeastern district of Ramadi, said resident Hussein Molsheh.

U.S. Marine Capt. Brad Gordon denied any clashes had taken place. He said U.S. authorities received a report that insurgents had opened fire, "but coalition forces did not return fire because they could not positively identify either a target or a point of origin."

Clashes between militants and U.S. troops backed by Iraqi National Guardmen also erupted in Samarra, 60 miles north of Baghdad.

In the northern city of Mosul, a car bomb exploded alongside a U.S. military convoy, injuring several people near Mosul's Yarmouk Square, witnesses said. At least one U.S. military vehicle was damaged in the blast.

In a separate incident, a bomb exploded alongside another U.S. convoy in the east of the city, witnesses said. No casualties were reported in the blast, but American troops opened fire afterward, injuring several people, residents said.

In the capital, gunmen shot dead Interior Ministry intelligence officer Lt. Lt. Ghazi Hoshi in the southern neighborhood of Dora, said Fathi Mohammadad, a police detective.

Also in Diyala province, Iraqi security forces and U.S. troops stormed an insurgent hideout, killing one insurgent and capturing another. One policeman was killed in the raid, Shabbab said.

In other violence Tuesday, a U.S. soldier assigned to the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force was killed in action in western Iraq, the U.S. military said in a statement from Fallujah on Wednesday.

On Wednesday, two U.S. soldiers died in vehicle accidents and a third of a non-combat injury, the military said, giving no other details.

Also Tuesday, assailants killed Jassim Mohammed Moussa al-Daraji, a former municipal official and al-Baath Party member in the eastern Baghdad slum of Sadr City, residents said Wednesday as they gathered for his funeral.



Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld listens to a question Wednesday as he testifies on Capitol Hill before the House Armed Services Committee hearing on the Defense Department's fiscal 2006 budget.

## Lawmakers push Rumsfeld on Iraq

BY LIZ SIDOTI  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — With U.S. casualties in Iraq climbing, lawmakers pressed Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld on Wednesday about the scope of the insurgency, the training of Iraqi security forces, American troop levels in the fragile state and an end game for U.S. involvement.

"We must win the war, but what is our strategy?" Rep. Ike Skelton, the top Democrat on the House Armed Services Committee, implored. "American troops are still paying a deadly price."

Rumsfeld, in written remarks submitted to the committee, warned that terrorists are regrouping for another strike, but that the United States is preparing to deal with any threat. "The extremists continue to plot to attack again. They are at this moment recalibrating and reorganizing. And so are we," he wrote, without providing any specifics on a potential threat or another attack.

However, the Pentagon chief's oral remarks were more reserved as he sought to convince lawmakers to provide enough money for the Pentagon to be able to transform the military into a force able to take on the threat of terrorists.

"What lessons have we learned during the past three plus years of warfare that can lead us to better calibrate and refine our strategies against the enemies who, lest we forget, have brains?"

"They watch what we do. They adapt to what we do, just as we watch what they do and adapt to what they do," Rumsfeld told lawmakers. "Today, weapon platforms are more lethal and precise, but still not flexible enough. Force deployments are faster, but not yet fast enough. The Pentagon bureaucracy is more efficient, but not yet efficient enough."

Offering his argument for President Bush's request for \$419 bil-

lion in defense spending for fiscal 2006, Rumsfeld said the plan sets an ambitious course to "continue prosecuting the war and to attack its ideological underpinnings."

He spoke to lawmakers increasingly concerned about an exit strategy for Iraq, a timetable for troops to return home and the skyrocketing costs of the war. Earlier this week, Bush asked Congress for \$82 billion in emergency money to fund the Iraq and Afghanistan wars.

Rumsfeld argued that reforms and initiatives in the budget support the Pentagon's effort to transform the military into a more agile, deployable force in responding to the terrorist threat.

"The Cold War has passed into history," the Pentagon chief said, adding that the budget is "essential because of the ruthlessness and resourcefulness of the enemies we face."

"Victory in this global struggle will require a military configured and funded to defend against the security threats of this century, not the conventional battles or the conventional wisdom of the last," he said.

## The price of the war on terror

More is spent per troop in current efforts than ever before

BY JOHN J. LUMPKIN  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — With military costs since Sept. 11, 2001, now expected to exceed \$300 billion, the Pentagon is spending more per soldier to fight in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere than it did during earlier conflicts.

High technology, the costs of paying and protecting a modern soldier, and the worldwide nature of the war on terrorism are all possible reasons, experts say.

"Every facet of military expenditure has skyrocketed since the Gulf War," said Loren B. Thompson, a military expert with the Lexington Institute. "The biggest reason why is because the military is more and more a microcosm of the broader economy."

The all-volunteer force, put in place by President Nixon in 1973 to replace the draft, has forced the military to compete with the private sector for soldiers, and offer better pay and benefits, he said. Sending those soldiers to war costs still more.

"The bottom-line problem with the all-volunteer force is you have to convince middle-class people to risk their lives for middle-class pay, so of course the price for each soldier keeps going up," he said.

According to government figures, the war in Iraq costs about \$4.3 billion a month, and the war in Afghanistan runs another \$800 million. That money goes for a variety of things, including fuel, ammunition, hazard pay for the soldiers and repair and replacement of weapons and vehicles.

On average, the government spent a similar amount monthly on the Vietnam War between 1965 and 1975, according to figures, adjusted for inflation, from the Congressional Research Service.

However, that figure is somewhat skewed, as the Vietnam War was far more costly at its height early in the war, from 1967 to 1970, than it was in the later years, when the U.S. presence was reduced.

The Bush administration similarly hopes it can reduce the U.S. troop presence in Iraq in the coming year or two, if Iraqi security forces become more able to handle the insurgency.

The United States spent \$623 billion on the Vietnam conflict, according to the service, using figures adjusted for inflation. If President Bush's new \$81.9 billion emergency request is implemented, U.S. war costs since the Sept. 11 attacks will approach half that.

Still, the United States has 170,000 troops deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan, but that will drop to 155,000 or fewer in the coming weeks due to a small postelection drawdown in Iraq. During the height of the Vietnam War, more than half a million U.S. soldiers were stationed in Southeast Asia.

Experts offered several reasons why post-Sept. 11 warfare has provided much more expensive per soldier than earlier conflicts: —The U.S. military is more professional and capable than it was 30 years ago when a significant portion of the soldiers in Vietnam were draftees. Now, it includes far more highly trained technicians running expensive computers and other gear. They are better paid, better trained, better equipped than their predecessors.

"We have a much better military than we had back then. We spend more on some kinds of support functions than we did back then," said Steven M. Kosiak at the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments.

—The military is relying much more on Guard and Reserves than it has in the past during extended spending measures, rather than the regular defense budget.

—The desert conditions of Iraq are wearing on vehicles at a much greater rate than expected, forcing more spending on repairs and replacements.

■ Combat deaths are down compared to previous conflicts, owing to better training, better body and vehicle armor and quick access to emergency medical care, all of which are expensive investments.

■ The global war on terror and the war in Iraq are far-flung ventures that involve protracted deployments to many countries, requiring lots of transport, logistics and communications to many places. U.S. troops have also been sent in smaller numbers to Georgia, Djibouti and the Philippines, among others, to oppose Islamic extremist groups.

**"You have to convince middle-class people to risk their lives for middle-class pay, so of course the price for each soldier keeps going up."**

Loren B. Thompson  
Military expert,  
Lexington Institute

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## IN THE STATES

## FDA vows action on drug safety

BY RANDOLPH E. SCHMID  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Food and Drug Administration promised prompt action Wednesday on recommendations from advisory committees probing the safety of popular painkillers, but urged the advisers to balance the risks and benefits of the drugs.

Vioxx was pulled from the market Sept. 30 after a long-term clinical trial indicated some patients suffered heart attacks or strokes. Similar safety questions have arisen concerning the related drugs Celebrex and Bextra.

The advisory committees are hearing from government officials, physicians, researchers and the public in three days of meetings before voting on recommendations for these prescription drugs, known as Cox-2 inhibitors.

The committee could make a range of recommendations including limiting these drugs to people not known to be at risk of heart problems, reducing the dose or duration of use, requiring tougher warning labels and even taking the drugs off the market.

Dr. Steven Galson, acting director of the



Health and Human Services Secretary Mike Leavitt announces on Tuesday that the FDA will establish a new independent board to monitor FDA-approved medicines once they're on the market.

FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, said the agency will act rapidly — in the next few weeks — on the committee recommendations. The FDA is not required to accept such recommendations, but generally does.

Galson reminded the group that the drugs in question are important painkillers widely used by people in chronic pain. It is important to balance the risks of drugs with their benefits, he said.

A drug that has a positive risk-benefit balance for the population as a whole, Galson added, may still cause serious problems for some individuals.

## House OKs bigger fines for indecency

BY GENARO C. ARMAS  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The House on Wednesday overwhelmingly approved a dramatic increase in fines for indecent programming, rejecting criticism the penalties will stifle free speech and homogenize radio and TV broadcasts.

Supporters said stiffer penalties are needed to give deep-pocketed broadcasters more incentive to clean up their programs and to help assure parents that their children won't be exposed to inappropriate material.

The measure, which passed 389-38, boosts the maximum fine from \$32,500 to \$500,000 for a company and from \$11,000 to \$50,000 for an individual entertainer.

The bill enjoyed broad bipartisan support from lawmakers upset about incidents like Janet Jackson's breast-baring "wardrobe malfunction" at the 2004 Super Bowl halftime show.

"This is a penalty that makes broadcasters sit up and take notice," said Rep. Joe Barton, R-Texas, chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee that sent the bill to the full House. "This legislation makes great strides in making it safe for

families to come back into their living room."

The White House, in a statement, said it strongly supports the legislation that "will make broadcast television and radio more suitable for family viewing."

The Senate is considering a similar bill. Any differences in the two will have to be worked out before it goes to President Bush for a signature. Last year the two chambers were unable to reach a compromise.

Opponents said they were concerned stiffer fines by the Federal Communications Commission would lead to more self-censorship by broadcasters and entertainers unclear about the definition of "indecent."

They cited the example of several ABC affiliates that last year did not air the World War II drama "Saving Private Ryan" because of worries that violence and profanity would lead to fines, even though the movie already had aired on network TV.

"We would put Big Brother in charge of deciding what is art and what is free speech," said Rep. Jan Schakowsky, D-Ill., who opposed the bill. "We would see self-and actual-censorship rise to new and undesirable heights."

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# Defrocked priest trial nears end

The Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Jurors began deliberations Wednesday following closing arguments in the trial of a former priest accused of sexually molesting an altar boy, who shot a cleric on a city street a decade after the alleged abuse.

Maurice Blackwell, 58, who did not testify, faces up to 60 years in jail if convicted of molesting Donte Stokes, 29, who served some detention on a gun charge

for attacking the former Roman Catholic priest.

In their closing arguments, defense attorneys portrayed Stokes as a disturbed young man who made up the allegations to deal with a sexual identity crisis, and the prosecution called him a vulnerable victim preyed upon by a trusted father figure.

Defense attorney Kenneth Ravenell told jurors Stokes had homosexual tendencies and was "willing to lie" to protect the secret of

his sexual identity.

He said Stokes fabricated the abuse allegations as a way of dealing with his sexuality.

"There was absolutely no credibility to anything Donte Stokes has told you," he said.

Stokes admitted in court that he has had trouble distinguishing between fantasy and reality at times, but firmly maintained he was sexually abused in Blackwell's residence at the rectory of St. Edwards Church in Baltimore.

Prosecutor Jo Anne Stanton said Stokes' mental problems coincided with the alleged abuse, which Stokes said started in 1989, when he was 13.

She said it was normal for an abused child to "question ... what is real ... and what is not."

Blackwell was stripped of his church authority after acknowledging he had a sexual relationship with a teenage boy in the early 1970s.



Maurice Blackwell

## Pipe bomb found

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — A pipe bomb was found and safely dismantled at a Department of Motor Vehicles office Tuesday — the latest in what is being investigated as a string of possible ecoterrorist incidents in communities east of Sacramento.

In the same community of Auburn, a different type of homemade explosive was found and dismantled Sunday outside the Placer County Courthouse. No one claimed responsibility for either incident, the FBI said.

The FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force is now investigating five incidents. The earliest, an attempted bombing, occurred Dec. 27 at an upscale housing development in nearby Lincoln, and two have been claimed as the work of the Earth Liberation Front, a radical environmental group.

"We're certainly not discounting that they all could be related, but we haven't made that leap," said FBI spokeswoman Karen Ernst.

Seven firebombs did ignite, however, Feb. 7 at an apartment complex in Sutter Creek, causing damage to four unoccupied units.

Graffiti at the Lincoln and Sutter Creek sites, and letters to newspapers after the Lincoln and first Auburn incident, claimed the bombs were the work of the ELF.

## Girl accused of killing

ST. LOUIS — A 12-year-old girl has been charged with murder under juvenile law for allegedly killing her 9-year-old sister, apparently in a dispute over a hamburger.

A Family Court judge will determine if the girl should be tried as an adult, but no date has been set for that proceeding, said Kathryn Herman, assistant administrator for the St. Louis Family Court. A detention hearing is set for Wednesday.

On Feb. 1, a social worker told police the 12-year-old was in a hospital psychiatric unit, suffering visions and nightmares, and had told the staff she strangled her sister during a quarrel over a hamburger, police told the Post-Dispatch.

Graham said those statements and the 9-year-old's injuries led him to determine the cause of death was strangulation. "No other condition reasonably explains her death," he said.

From The Associated Press

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Farm owner David Sarabian applies a low-grade pesticide to orchard trees Monday at his ranch in Fresno, Calif. A study by chief economist Gary Wolff at the Oakland-based Pacific Institute suggests hinging the tax on pesticides and using the extra money to educate farmers on how to reduce toxic runoff.

## Group says pesticide tax plus education means cleaner water

BY BRIAN SKOLOFF  
The Associated Press

FRESNO, Calif. — An environmental group has proposed a tax hike on pesticides that would fund classes for California farmers on how to reduce the amount of toxic runoff in the state's water supply.

Gary Wolff, chief economist at the Oakland-based Pacific Institute, an environmental research group, said farmers who enroll in such classes could receive benefits that make up for the 7.9 percent tax increase.

"They would actually be making money," said Wolff, who wrote the institute's Feb. 8 report, "Investing in Clean Agriculture." Urban buyers of all sorts of chemicals, such as chlorine for pools, also would pay the added tax and bear some of the costs for the classes, the report says.

Pesticides are taxed in California at 2.1 percent of wholesale value. The group wants to increase that to 10 percent. The tax would last three years, then revert to 2.1 percent.

"It is, in our opinion, the only way to escape long-term social forces that could be very detrimental to farms and farmers and food security," the report says.

Pesticide use in California in 2003 jumped 4 percent from a year earlier, to about 175 million pounds, according to the state Department of Pesticide Regulation. "Pesticide expenditures as a percent of profit have been rising steadily," Wolff said. "By getting a handle on when and where they can use less pesticides, farmers are going to improve their bottom line."

Farmer David Sarabian, who grows peaches, plums, nectarines

and grapes in the San Joaquin Valley, said new taxes are not necessary.

"We're an educated group of people," he said. "We know there are alternatives and sometimes you use them, and sometimes they work, but sometimes they are cost-prohibitive."

Wolff's report says similar tax increases have worked elsewhere.

In Denmark, a program started in 1986 reduced pesticide use by more than 50 percent within 10 years, the report found. Glenn Brunk, spokesman for the state Department of Pesticide Regulation, said Wolff's plan is too complicated and doesn't account for the need for people to organize classes and distribute funds.

Brunk said the department is working on a plan for more environmentally sound pest management practices.

Jenny Derry, executive director of the Santa Clara County Farm Bureau, said similar programs funded by grants began in coastal farming communities three years ago.

"The first year was really slow. It was like pulling teeth to get these people to participate. Now, our classes have waiting lists," she said. "If you can use less pesticides, it's better for the pocketbook and it's better for the environment."

Lynn McBride, director of government relations for the California Farmers Union, said her organization would support an incentive-driven proposal such as Wolff's.

"We need to find a way to make it affordable to be out there actively working to improve the environment, and this sounds like a good way."

## Study: Prenatal pollutant exposure may be linked to genetic changes

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — A study of New York City newborns suggests that prenatal exposure to air pollution may be linked to genetic changes associated with an increased risk of cancer, researchers said Tuesday.

The Columbia University study followed 60 newborns and their non-smoking mothers in low-income neighborhoods, primarily in Harlem and the Bronx.

Their exposure to combustion-related pollutants caused primarily by vehicles was measured by backpack air monitors worn by the women during the third trimester of their pregnancies.

When the babies were born, genetic alterations were measured.

Researchers found about a 50 percent increase in

the level of persistent genetic abnormalities in the infants who had the higher levels of exposure, said Dr. Frederica Perera, director of the center and senior author of the study.

"We already knew that air pollutants significantly reduced fetal growth, but this is the first time we've seen evidence that they can change chromosomes in utero," Perera said.

She said the kind of genetic changes that occurred have been linked in other studies to increased risk of cancer.

The study, published in the journal *Cancer Epidemiology Biomarkers and Prevention*, is part of a broader multi-year research project started in 1998 that examines the health effects of exposure of pregnant women and babies to air pollutants, pesticides and smoking.

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# Miss. celebrates B.B. King

BY EMILY  
WAGSTER PETTUS  
The Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss. — Blues great B.B. King pulled a white handkerchief from his pocket and wiped away tears as the state House and Senate declared Tuesday to be B.B. King Day.

"I never learned to talk very well without Lucille," King said, speaking of his black Gibson guitar. "But today, I'm trying to say only God knows how I feel. I am so happy. Thank you."

Lawnmakers and Gov. Haley

Barbour honored the 79-year-old Delta native during a standing-room-only ceremony in the Senate chamber.

King, whose hits include "The Thrill is Gone," said it was the first time he had set foot in the Mississippi Capitol.

Outside, King was mobbed by fans seeking autographs and pictures. He graciously indulged the requests, even signing a candy-apple red Fender electric guitar for Ben Thompson, chief of staff for Lt. Gov. Amy Tuck.

"Signing guitars that are not Gibson is like being married and

kissing a woman who is not your wife," King said with a smile.

Arkansas Lt. Gov. Winthrop Paul Rockefeller attended the ceremony, and stayed to get a picture with King.

The singer and guests were treated to lunch at the Governor's Mansion. During an after-lunch interview in the limousine, King said his home state, which once struggled with racial oppression, has made "night and day" changes over the decades.

"This has been the most beautiful day of my life."

Riley B. King was born Sept.



Sen. David Jordan, D-Greenwood, right, holds aloft a House resolution honoring blues legend and B.B. King, left, who waves to a packed Senate Chamber in Jackson, Miss. The state, which once struggled with racial oppression, declared Tuesday to be B.B. King Day.

AP

16, 1925, on a cotton plantation in Berclair, around Itta Bena. He earned the nickname "B.B." — for Beale Street Blues Boy or just Blues Boy — during his early career in Memphis, Tenn.

King has earned 13 Grammy awards and has been inducted

into the Blues Foundation Hall of Fame and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

He has sold more than 40 million records worldwide, and Barbour said there are "more to come — because the thrill is not gone."

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## Westminster crowns pointer best in show

BY BEN WALKER  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — In the dog show world, they call it a "free stack." That's when a pooch strikes a pose, holds perfectly still and tries to win over the judge.

Just the way a German shorthaired pointer did it Tuesday night. Standing like the very symbol of the Westminster Kennel Club, a 5-year-old female called Carlee won best in show at America's most prestigious canine event.

"She was spectacular," star handler Michelle Ostermiller said.

With soft eyes and a gliding gait that she mastered by running three to four miles a day, Carlee beat out a popular Norfolk terrier, a champion bloodhound and a wobbling Pekinese.

All seven finalists gave fine performances on the green carpet of Madison Square Garden. But the sellout crowd and judge Lynette Saltzman were clearly won over by Carlee's stack.

Paying rapid attention to Ostermiller, Carlee pointed with perfection as the cheers grew louder and louder. A living statue for a good 10 seconds — it seemed like an eternity.

"She owned the ground she stood over," USA Network host David Frei said later.

Last year, Ostermiller neatly guided a big Newfoundland named Josh to this best in show title. This time, she came back to be the tops among the 2,581 entries in 165 breeds and varieties.

"I'm stunned," she said. "Officially named Ch. Kan-Point's VJK Autumn Roses, Carlee won the sporting group earlier in the evening and wound up



AP

Carlee, a German shorthaired pointer, competes Tuesday in the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show in New York. Carlee, handled by Michelle Ostermiller, won best in show.

with her ninth best in show title overall.

A sprightly Norfolk terrier named Coco represented the terriers.

She was the favorite at Westminster last year, and came back this time at 6½ years old after taking off six months to deliver three puppies — Tom, Dick and Harry.

Knotty, a bloodhound that won the AKC/Eukumba show last month, was trying to become the first blood in 22 years to take best in show at Westminster. Instead, he's headed home to Topanga Canyon, Calif.

A Pekinese called Jeffrey was the toy winner.

## Fans open wallets at Kennedy auction

NEW YORK — The frenzy over Jackie Kennedy Onassis' bric-a-brac soared to new heights Tuesday, with a lively doorknob selling for \$4,800 on the opening day of a three-day auction. By day's end, the Sotby's auction of Jackie O's possessions had brought in \$1,747,620, much more than the \$1 million experts had predicted for the entire catalogue.

It's clear the Kennedy name still carries some magic, transforming garage-sale items into highly sought remnants of Camelot. Experts cited the "associative value" of the iconic Kennedy name.

From wire services

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# Two skulls found decades ago are oldest humans

Scientists estimate *Homo sapiens* first appeared 200,000 years ago

BY MALCOLM RITTER

The Associated Press

**NEW YORK** — A new analysis of bones unearthed nearly 40 years ago in Ethiopia has pushed the fossil record of modern humans back to nearly 200,000 years ago — perhaps close to the dawn of the species.

Researchers determined that the specimens are around 195,000 years old. Previously, the oldest known fossils of *Homo sapiens* were Ethiopian skulls dated to about 160,000 years old. Genetic studies estimate that *Homo sapiens* arose about 200,000 years ago, so the new research brings the fossil record more in line with that, said John Fleagle of Stony Brook University in New York, an author of the study.

The fossils were found in 1967 near the Omo River in southwest Ethiopia. One location yielded Omo I, which includes part of a skull plus skeletal bones. Another site produced Omo II, which has more of a skull but no skeletal bones. Neither specimen has a complete face.

Although Omo II shows more primitive characteristics than Omo I, scientists called both specimens *Homo sapiens* and assigned a tentative age of 130,000 years.

Now, after visiting the discovery sites, analyzing their geology and testing rock samples with more modern dating techniques, Fleagle and colleagues report in Thursday's issue of the journal *Nature* that both specimens are 195,000 years old, give or take 5,000 years.

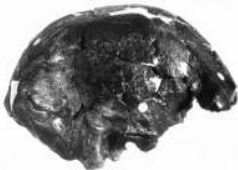
Fleagle said the more primitive traits of Omo II may mean the two specimens came from different but overlapping *Homo sapiens* populations, or that they just represent natural variation within a population.

To find the age of the skulls, the researchers determined that volcanic rock lying just below the sediment that contained the fossils was about 196,000 years old. They then found evidence that the fossil-bearing sediment was deposited soon after that time.

Paul Renne, director of the Berkeley Geochronology Center, which specializes in dating



Omo 1



Omo 2

Two partial skulls unearthed in Ethiopia in 1967 are seen in this undated photo. The skulls are about 195,000 years old, making them the earliest known well-dated remains of anatomically modern humans, called *Homo sapiens*, a new analysis says.

rocks, said the researchers made "a reasonably good argument" to support their dating of the fossils.

"It's more likely than not," he said, calling the work "very exciting and important."

Rick Potts, director of the Human Origins Program at the

Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History, said he considered the case for the new fossil ages "very strong." The work suggests that "we're right on the cusp of where the genetic evidence says the origin of modern humans ... should be," he said.

G. Philip Rightmire, a paleoanthropologist at Binghamton University in New York, said he believes the Omo fossils show *Homo sapiens* plus a more primitive ancestor. The find appears to represent the aftermath of the birth of *Homo sapiens*, when it was still living alongside its ancestral species, he said.

## New Homeland Security chief sworn in

**WASHINGTON** — Michael Chertoff was sworn in Tuesday as the nation's second Homeland Security secretary, hours after the Senate placed the tough-on-terrorism former prosecutor in charge of a bureaucracy prone to infighting and turf wars. Chertoff replaces Tom Ridge, who stepped down Feb. 1.

## Fatal Arkansas bus crash report issued

**LITTLE ROCK, Ark.** — Federal investigators have determined that faulty repair work on a bus roof contributed to an October accident that killed 15 people traveling to a Mississippi casino.

A garage fire had damaged the Walters Charter and Tours motorcoach some time before the accident, the National Transportation Safety Board said Tuesday. The roof was repaired poorly, with many misaligned rivet points and corrosion, the NTSB said.

## Man pleads not guilty in L.A. train wreck case

**LOS ANGELES** — The man accused of causing a deadly train wreck during an aborted suicide attempt last month pleaded not guilty to 11 counts of murder that could bring the death penalty.

Juan Manuel Alvarez, 25, parked an SUV on the tracks Jan. 26 but lost his nerve and jumped out in time to see two commuter trains crash in suburban Glendale, authorities said. Investigators said he stabbed himself and slashed his wrists after the crash, but no injuries could be seen in court Tuesday.

## South Los Angeles hospital passes inspection

**LOS ANGELES** — The only public hospital in gang-ridden South Los Angeles has passed a new federal inspection, lifting the threat of losing \$200 million a year in Medicare funding, county officials said. The Martin Luther King Jr. Drew Medical Center, which was classified in "immediate jeopardy" status after failing a federal inspection of procedures used to restrain aggressive psychiatric patients, passed a re-inspection Tuesday of the psychiatric and telemetry units.

From The Associated Press

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# Coffee may help thwart liver cancer

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Researchers in Japan have discovered some eye-opening news about coffee. It may help prevent the most common type of liver cancer.

A study of more than 90,000 Japanese found that people who drank coffee daily or nearly every day had half the liver cancer risk of those who never drank coffee. The protective effect occurred in people who drank one to two cups a day and increased at three to four cups.

Animal studies have suggested a protective association of coffee with liver cancer, so the research team led by Moriaki Inoue of the National Cancer Center in Tokyo analyzed a 10-year public health study to determine coffee use by people diagnosed with liver cancer and people who did not have cancer.

They found the likely occurrence of liver cancer in people who never or almost never drank coffee was 54.7 cases per 100,000 people over 10 years.

But for people who drank coffee daily the risk was 21.4 cases per 100,000, the researchers report in this week's issue of the Journal of the National Cancer Institute.



**The Coffee Grinder in the Westminster (Md.) Shopping Center offers over 50 varieties of coffee beans. Researchers in Japan have discovered some eye-opening news about coffee: It may help prevent the most common type of liver cancer.**

They were unable to compare the effect of regular and decaffeinated coffee, however, because decaf is rarely consumed in Japan. The caffeine in coffee has been shown in other studies to prompt mental alertness in many drinkers, although it makes some people nervous. Some studies

have suggested caffeine aggravates symptoms of menopause or intensifies the side effects of some antibiotics.

Heavy caffeine use has been linked to miscarriage. But studies have also shown that a skin cream spiked with caffeine lowers the risk of skin cancer in

men. "It's an excellent, interesting and provocative study and their conclusions seem justified," commented Dr. R. Palmer Beasley of the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston.

"It will provoke a lot of new work here," said Beasley, who was not part of the research group.

The American Cancer Society estimates that 18,920 new cases of liver cancer were diagnosed in the United States last year and some 14,270 people died of the illness. Causes include hepatitis, cirrhosis, excess alcohol consumption, and diseases causing chronic inflammation of the liver.

The authors note that the study needs to be repeated in other groups. The reason for the reduction remains unclear. Inoue's team noted that coffee contains large amounts of antioxidants, and several animal studies have indicated those compounds have the potential to inhibit cancer in the liver.

In their study, the team also looked at green tea, which contains different antioxidants, and they found no association between drinking the tea and liver cancer rates.

The Japanese study was funded by the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare of Japan. The U.S. study was funded by the National Institutes of Health.

## Airport confiscations

CITY, Texas — A Texas company is adding a service at some airports to prevent airline passengers from losing sentimental items confiscated as potential weapons.

League City-based ReturnKix Systems has developed automated mailing kiosks that are being set up in major international airports to allow travelers to mail home items forbidden aboard aircraft. They are already at Newark, Washington Dulles, New York LaGuardia and Houston's Bush Intercontinental airports. More airports are scheduled to receive the kiosks throughout the year, the company said.

Nico Melendez, field communications director for the Transportation Security Administration in Los Angeles, said kiosks such as this are another tool for passengers, but he said TSA is not involved in the process.

## T-Mobile hacker case

LOS ANGELES — A hacker who broke into the network of T-Mobile USA Inc. and accessed personal information on hundreds of customers including a Secret Service agent has pleaded guilty to a felony hacking charge.

Nicholas Lee Jacobsen, a 21-year-old computer engineer who now lives in Oregon, entered his plea Tuesday in U.S. District Court in Los Angeles. He faces up to five years in federal prison and a \$250,000 fine when he is sentenced May 16.

The break-in targeted the network of Bellevue, Wash.-based T-Mobile USA, which has 16.3 million customers nationwide. It was discovered during a Secret Service investigation.

T-Mobile acknowledged the hacker was able to view the names and Social Security numbers of 400 customers, all of whom it said were notified in writing about the break-in, which lasted at least seven months. The company said customer credit card numbers and other financial information were never revealed.

## Supremacist arrested

SEATTLE — Federal agents have arrested three men on gun and explosives charges, including a white supremacist who once served time for plotting to kill Martin Luther King.

Keith Gilbert, 65, was taken into custody Tuesday at his home in Seattle's University District, FBI spokeswoman Robbie Burroughs said. His associate, William D. Heinrich, 50, was arrested at a nearby home.

They appeared separately Tuesday afternoon in U.S. District Court to be informed of the charges against them, as did a third Seattle man, John P. Hejna, 44, who was arrested at the home of relatives in Grays Harbor County, Wash., with a long, graying ponytail and a green camouflage sweater, was polite as he responded to questions from U.S. Magistrate Monica J. Benton. Each was ordered held until a detention hearing is set for later this week.

A court complaint said Gilbert, a former follower of late Aryan Nations founder Richard Butler, sold automatic AK-47 machine guns and other weapons to a confidential informant working with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

From The Associated Press

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## IN THE WORLD

# Al-Qaida suspect gives himself up

## Man confesses to planning Yemen attacks

BY AHMED AL-HAJ  
The Associated Press

SAN'A, Yemen — A suspected member of al-Qaida has turned himself in to authorities and confessed to planning terror attacks against Western embassies in the Yemeni capital, security officials said Wednesday.

The man, identified only as a 30-year-old Yemeni extremist, has told his interrogators he belonged to a cell of the al-Qaida terror group and he planned to carry out a suicide attack on the U.N. offices in San'a last week, the officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The militant surrendered last week to the Yemeni intelligence department in San'a, the officials said. They did not say why he turned himself in.

After his surrender, police searched his house and confiscated weapons and explosives, the officials said.

Authorities have increased security outside the U.N. building, which the militant said his cell had noticed was not well protected. Soldiers now patrol the three-story villa around the clock.

The officials said the militant also confessed that he and five others, including Saudis, had planned to attack Western embassies, including the American and British embassies. The officials did not provide further details.

On Monday, 11 charged members of the al-Qaida terror network went on trial on charges of planning attacks in Yemen and other countries.

The suspects on Wednesday got support from al-Qaida in Iraq, in a statement posted on an Islamic Web site that regularly carries militant statements.

It warned Yemen's leaders that they will "find no way to escape the spears of the soldiers of Yemen. There is no worse than a tyrant who fights the Muslims and leaves behind the infidels."

However, a top security official said the blast was caused during the construction of a dam.

### 'Baby 81' reunion

KALMUNAI, Sri Lanka — The 4-month-old boy who was swept from his mother's arms in the Asian tsunami was handed to his parents in a joyous courtroom reunion Wednesday after an agonizing custody battle that lasted nearly eight weeks.

Smiling with relief, Jenita Jayarajah took the boy who came to be known as "Baby 81" from a doctor's arms after the judge said DNA tests confirmed he was her son Abilash.

The infant was found on a beach among bodies and debris on Dec. 26. He was claimed by nine couples, symbolizing the anguish of thousands of families who lost children in the disaster, but only Jayarajah pressed the claim in court.

### Chinese mine explosion

FUXIN, China — Chinese miners die at a rate of about 16 per day, outside to floods, fires and explosions.

This week, the industry suffered its worst accident in decades with more than 200 dead in a single blast in northeastern Liaoning province in a methane gas explosion. Last year, 6,027 workers were killed in China's coal mines.

For many of China's mine workers, the work may be dangerous, but the pay far exceeds what they could make elsewhere.

From The Associated Press



Greenpeace protesters sit on the steps of the International Petroleum Exchange in London on Wednesday after attempting to stop trading on the floor of the exchange. The protest marked the day the Kyoto Protocol on global warming came into force.

# Kyoto global-warming pact to cut 'greenhouse gases' takes effect

BY JOSEPH COLEMAN  
The Associated Press

KYOTO, Japan — The Kyoto global warming pact went into force Wednesday, seven years after it was negotiated, imposing limits on emissions of carbon dioxide and other gases scientists blame for increasing world temperatures, melting glaciers and rising oceans.

The landmark agreement, negotiated in Japan's ancient capital of Kyoto in 1997 and ratified by 140 nations, targets carbon dioxide

and five other gases that can trap heat in the atmosphere, and are believed to be behind rising global temperatures that many scientists say are disrupting weather patterns.

The United States, the world's largest emitter of such gases, has refused to ratify the agreement, saying it would harm the economy and is flawed by the lack of restrictions on emissions by emerging economies China and India.

Environmental officials, gathered in the convention hall where the accord was adopted, hailed the

protocol as a historic first step in the battle against global warming. Australia, the only other developed nation besides the United States not to join, defended that decision, with Environment Minister Ian Campbell saying the country was nonetheless on track to cut emissions by 30 percent.

The Kyoto agreement was delayed by the requirement that countries accounting for 55 percent of the world's emissions must ratify it. That goal was reached last year — nearly seven years after the pact was negotiated — with Russia's approval.

### Madrid bombing

MADRID, Spain — One of the prime suspects in the Madrid train bombings left a goodbye note saying he prayed for martyrdom and encouraging his children to join Islamic militant fighters, according to previously classified documents released Tuesday.

Police said the letter was written and signed by Moroccan Abdelnabi Kounjaa before he committed suicide in April last year.

It was among 125 pages of police documents released Tuesday by the National Court judge leading the investigation into the March 11, 2004 bombings.

### Iran nuclear dispute

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran's intelligence chief on Wednesday accused the United States of flying spy drones over its nuclear sites and threatened to shoot down the unmanned surveillance crafts.

Intelligence Minister Ali Yunesi comments backed a report in The Washington Post on Sunday that quoted unidentified U.S. officials as saying the drones have been flying over Iran for nearly a year to seek evidence of nuclear weapons programs.

Also in Iran on Wednesday, Iranian state television reported that an explosion near the southern town of Deylam, about 110 miles from a nuclear facility, may have been caused by a fuel tank dropping from an Iranian plane. A government spokesman said the blast may have been caused by friendly fire.

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# Syria responds to U.S. removal of ambassador

BY ZEINA KARAM  
The Associated Press

DAMASCUS, Syria — U.S. Ambassador Margaret Scobey, who has been summoned home over the assassination of Lebanon's ex-premier, delivered a letter Wednesday to Syrian officials from U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice concerning Lebanon, the official news agency said.

After meeting with Scobey, Foreign Minister Farouk al-Sharaa said the U.S. recalling of Scobey "is an opportunity to carry Syrian positions directly to the American administration in light of regional developments," SANA said.

The agency said Scobey expressed hope that she would resume her work in Damascus "as soon as possible." It added that Rice's letter, delivered to al-Sharaa, was related to developments in Lebanon, Iraq and the peace process. Al-Sharaa, in turn, handed her Syria's reply in a letter.

Syrian analysts close to the government recall the U.S. measure to recall its ambassador unfair. "It is an unjustified escalation at this point that aims at sending a message," said Imad Fawzi Shoueibi, a Syrian political analyst who routinely expresses views shared by the Syrian gov-



Margrette Scobey, the U.S. ambassador to Syria, leaves the Syrian Foreign Ministry in Damascus on Wednesday after meeting Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk al-Sharaa.

ernment. "It reveals an underlying attempt to accuse Syria of having a role in what takes place in Lebanon."

Washington's move Tuesday came as the U.S. Security Council called for an urgent report

from the U.N. secretary-general on the "circumstances, causes and consequences" of Rafik Hariri's death in a massive explosion that ripped through his motorcade Monday in Beirut and killed 16 others.

That resolution also reiterated the council's earlier calls for foreign forces — essentially, the roughly 15,000 Syrian troops — to leave Lebanon and noted support for the Lebanese people's "long-standing national aspiration to full sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity."

In Beirut, on Wednesday, mourners holding banners saying "Syria Out!" crowded around the flag-draped coffin of former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, and his family warned the pro-Damascus government to stay away as hundreds of thousands of people turned his funeral into a spontaneous rally against Syria.

Along the funeral route through downtown Beirut, the Lebanese flag was hung from balconies and pictures were posted of Hariri, who was assassinated Monday by a massive car bomb that also killed 16 others.

Angry mourners shouted insults at Syrian President Bashar Assad to "remove your dogs from Beirut!" — a reference to Syrian intelligence agents, part of an overall contingent of 15,000 troops deployed here since 1976.

## North Korea nukes

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea told U.S. officials it has no plans to launch "large-scale" economic cooperation with North Korea before the dispute over the communist state's nuclear weapons programs is resolved, the foreign minister said Wednesday.

The comments came amid growing calls from opposition lawmakers that President Roh Moo-hyun's government needs to reconsider its policy of engagement with North Korea, which declared last week that it possessed nuclear weapons and would boycott disarmament talks.

## Drug amnesty fails

BELFAST, Northern Ireland — Not a single inmate in Northern Ireland's main prison handed in drugs during a one-day amnesty designed to reduce abuse in the facility, the British government said Wednesday.

Authorities at Maghaberry Prison, west of Belfast, told the extraordinary measure after 27-year-old inmate Kevin Slevin was found dead in his cell Monday. Slevin, who was serving a sentence for possessing and supplying illegal drugs, died from a suspected overdose of the sedative diazepam, more commonly known as Valium.

## Balloon launch plans

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — U.S. space agency NASA plans to launch several massive helium balloons from a northern Sweden launch pad this summer, officials said Wednesday.

The campaign is part of the space agency's way of using the balloons to lift heavy payloads of astronomical telescopes and other heavy equipment for astrophysical experiments and research into cosmic radiation — to an altitude of about 25 miles.

## WWII bomb disposal

LE HAVRE, France — Disposal experts were called in to remove an American World War II bomb in the northern French city of Le Havre on Wednesday.

A security perimeter was laid out in the port to allow the remov-

al of the 1,100-pound bomb that was discovered two weeks ago.

## Tracking Hurricane Olaf

PAGO PAGO, American Samoa — Residents boarded up homes, businesses and church buildings, and stocked up on canned food, bottled water and flashlights in anticipation of Hurricane Olaf.

Olaf had wind gusts up to 190 mph, and giant waves were likely to cause flooding in low-lying areas, the National Weather Service said.

Authorities began evacuating residents from coastal and low-lying areas of Pago Pago.

American Samoa is located in the South Pacific, and is the United States' southernmost territory.

## Afghan drug-fighting aid

KABUL, Afghanistan — British Foreign Minister Jack Straw announced a doubling of aid to combat Afghanistan's booming heroin trade during a visit Wednesday.

Straw said that British aid per year would rise to \$100 million starting in April, from \$50 million now. Half of that money will go toward helping opioid poppy farmers find alternative crops.

## 9/11 suspect's retrial

HAMBURG, Germany — Prosecutors and defense attorneys in the retrial of the only Sept. 11 suspect ever convicted under German authorities Wednesday to press the United States for further evidence in the case.

Germany's top law enforcement official, Interior Minister Otto Schily, was quoted as saying after a visit to Washington this month that he expects the United States to hand over additional information soon. An FBI agent also told the Hamburg court last month that the U.S. authorities have more information on Moumin el Motassadeq.

El Motassadeq, 30, is being retried on more than 3,000 counts of accessory to murder and membership in a terrorist organization on suspicion he provided logistical support for suicide hijackers Mohamed Atta, Marwan al-Shehhi and Ziad Jarrah.

From The Associated Press

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## A 'wrong' number

**MI** DETROIT — The Motor City produces the most calls to the Rejection Hotline, a free telephone service that allows uninterested objects of affection to blow off come-ons.

It works like this: You're asked for your telephone number by someone in whom you have no interest.

You might sound receptive by saying: "248-262-6861."

When that number is dialed, this is what the caller gets: "The person who gave you this number did not want you to have their real number. Maybe the idea of going out with you just seems as appealing as playing leapfrog with unicorns. ... Do your best to forget about the person who gave you this number because, trust us, they've already forgotten about you."

Cher Wardlow, who was given the number about a year ago, wasn't amused. "It was mean," said the 30-year-old store manager. "I was kind of insulted. I didn't think I was all bad. I thought he had lot of nerve."

## New ferry operator

**NJ** NEWARK — Ferry service between New Jersey and lower Manhattan will continue uninterrupted under a new operator. Under an agreement the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey is expected to approve next week, BillyBey Ferry Co. will assume routes operated by New York Waterway from Hoboken and Jersey City.

## Protecting newborns

**AR** LITTLE ROCK — Legislation inspired by a grandmother's quest to make someone positive out of the drug-induced death of her infant grandson won a Senate committee's endorsement. The bill would expand the definition of neglect to include causing a child to be born with an illegal substance in his or her system or with a health problem as a result of the mother's use of an illegal substance.

## Gay-marriage ban drive

**FL** ORLANDO — A petition drive aimed at writing a ban on gay marriage into the state constitution is under way. If the amendment is to go before the voters, FloridaMarriage.org must collect 611,000 valid signatures by next February. The group has ties to conservative Christian organizations.

## Humphrey memorial

**MN** ST. PAUL — Plans for a memorial honoring Hubert H. Humphrey are gaining momentum. The Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board issued a call for designers of the life-size statue of the late senator and vice president. A design could be selected by April and construction could begin next year.

## Bible classes allowed

**VA** STAUNTON — The Staunton School Board has decided to allow Bible classes to continue this year for elementary



school students, despite staunch objections from a board member who also is a pastor.

"I think WRE is wrong for our school children," said the Rev. Edward Scott, who serves on the board. "It belongs in the homes and in the churches."

The board voted 5-1 to conduct a yearlong review of the program to determine if the needs of both the students going to the classes and those who opt out are being met.

Some parents asked the school board to eliminate or modify the program, saying the children who opt out are stigmatized and have little to do while waiting for the other children to return to class.

The Bible classes began in Virginia in 1929 after a majority of students failed a simple Bible test.

## Traveling first class

**AK** ANCHORAGE — The Alaska Railroad is acquiring two new, custom-designed railcars this May for passengers who want to upgrade to first class. The service will be available between Anchorage and Fairbanks on the Denali Star Train.

## Requested wartime love

**MO** HANNIBAL — It was a two-day encounter at the height of World War II, but Richard Turner never forgot that Iowa girl. Now, 60 years later, he's about to marry her.

Years passed before he decided to try to find Annette Jensen, but after renewing their courtship the pair plan to wed in Florida.



**Who you looking at?**  
A great gray owl perches on a tree near Aitkin, Minn. Large numbers of owls have been reported in central Minnesota this winter, moving south from their traditional range in search of food.

The two first met in 1945. Turner was a student at the University of Missouri who traveled to Iowa to visit a girlfriend who had transferred to college there.

But upon his arrival, Turner met Jensen. They quickly became so close she invited him home to meet her parents. He reported for military duty a short time later. Jensen said Turner "wrote a beautiful poem I kept all these years." Beyond that, the two lost contact.

In 1999, Turner ventured to Decorah, Iowa, while heading to visit a son on the West Coast. He stopped at the high school and asked for help in finding Jensen.

He passed along his name and address for the class reunion and sent a Christmas card.

Turner eventually got a surprise call on July 13, 2003.

"My phone rang, and the voice said, 'This is Ann Jensen,'" Turner recalled. "I said, 'Who?' She said 'Annette.'"

## Alternate route

**WI** MADISON — State regulators ordered American Transmission Co. to provide alternative routes for a planned power line in northern Wisconsin after the Douglas County board barred access to some land for the \$420 million project. The company said it would go to court over the issue.

## Ants with a sting

**HI** HILO — It doesn't make as much noise as the coqui frog, but the little fire ant has invaded the Big Island, stinging fruit pickers and homeowners alike.

The little fire ant, a native of South America, has been spreading since it was first discovered in Hawaiian Paradise Park in 1999, state agriculture officials said.

The tiny light-brown ant is no bigger in length than the edge of a penny, but it can pack a painful punch — fire ant stings cause immediate dime-sized red welts on the skin that last at least several days followed by intense itching.

Colleen Schrandt, who grows rambutan, mangosteen and durian on her 15 acres of orchards at Papaikou, said she has trouble keeping workers because of the ants.

One fled screaming. "I can't take it any more," she said.

## Pioneering gorilla dies

**IL** CHICAGO — The first gorilla ever born at Chicago's Lincoln Park Zoo has died at age 35, elderly for a western lowland gorilla.

The female Kumba apparently suffered from kidney failure, zoo spokeswoman Kelly McGrath said. Keepers decided to euthanize her on Saturday.

Kumba's birth in 1970 marked a turning point in how gorillas were handled in U.S. zoos, McGrath said. Previously, they were typically kept apart from other gorillas. Kumba was kept with her mother and later with other gorillas.

"Kumba marked the beginning of a realization that gorillas in zoos living as they do in the wild in social groups — was better for them and better from an education standpoint (for the public)," McGrath said.



## Prairie wagon

Haley Ingram, 8, pushes her 6-year-old sister, Molly, down a hill in Wichita, Kan. The Ingram family was taking advantage of the unusually warm weather.



## Crash landing

Firefighters clear debris off a police officer's cruiser that crashed into a building near Union Station in Washington, D.C. Authorities said the officer behind the wheel possibly fainted.



**'Oh, won't you be mine?'** Ruthann Sharpe, first vice president of the Bank of Blue Valley, receives a musical Valentine's Day message in Leawood, Kan. Trails West Barbershop Chorus members — clockwise from left, Mike Rowland, Russ Craig, Gary Colburn, Earl Martin and Ernie Hicks — played musical cupids at 28 locations. Sharpe's husband sent her the singing Valentine's Day wish.



## A Kiss will make it better

Workmen Charles Downing, left, and David Hooks, center, join homeowner Dana Morris on the roof of his house in Gulf Breeze, Fla., while installing an old billboard advertising a Kiss concert. Lamar Advertising Co. is donating the billboard coverings as temporary patches to the damage caused by Hurricane Ivan because the blue plastic tarps from FEMA are wearing out.



## For the actors, anything goes

Union High School in Brattleboro, Vt. The pair were preparing for the school music department's rehearsal of the play "Anything Goes."

Sarah Gruver shuts her eyes tightly as Becca Greene-Cramer sprays her hair at Brattleboro



## Sleigh ride

Butch Durgin musters his team of Belgian horses during the Windsor Historical Society's annual sleigh ride at the Windsor Fairgrounds in Maine.

## Brain-dead inmate freed

**CA** SACRAMENTO — An inmate who was left brain-dead after being shot by a prison guard last month was freed from custody with an unusual decision from a state prison board.

Daniel Provencio, 28, remains in Bakersfield's Mercy Hospital, hooked to a ventilator and intravenous tubes. But he no longer is shackled to the bed, nor guarded around the clock at a cost of \$1,056 a day, as he had been since he was shot in the head with a supposedly non-lethal foam projectile during a prison altercation Jan. 16.

Provencio was released in June after serving a three-year, eight-month Ventura County sentence for drug possession with intent to sell. But he was reincarcerated Aug. 23 for violating his parole by driving under the influence. He was due for parole consideration again in June.

## Hemingway controversy

**ID** BOISE — Residents who fear the return of Ernest Hemingway's former home in the resort town of Ketchum want to buy the house and move it to settle a dispute with its owner, The Nature Conservancy.

Four couples say plans to turn the house into a literary memorial would create tourist traffic, disrupting the neighborhood where building lots can sell for more than \$4 million each.

They want to purchase 13 acres that include the house, then return the building to the conservation group — provided it be moved to somewhere else in Ketchum. The Conservancy's board of directors will consider the offer later this month.

## New rules for jail visits

**MA** WEST BOYLSTON — There's a long list of things that you can't do when you're behind bars, but for inmates at the Worcester County Jail and House of Correction, the list is getting a little longer.

Sheriff Guy W. Glodis has ordered an end to the face-to-face sessions in most sections of the jail, saying that contact between prisoners and visitors are to blame for most of the drugs and weapons entering the county locks.

That means an end to the brief hug that prisoners are allowed to receive at the end of a visit, as well as any other direct contact with visitors. Kissing has been banned for several years.

## Hoffa lead a dead end

**MI** DETROIT — Blood found on the floor of a Detroit home is not that of Jimmy Hoffa, investigators said, ruling out what had looked like one of the most promising recent leads in the disappearance of the Teamsters boss 30 years ago.

Authorities had ripped up floorboards last May at a house where Delaware Teamsters official Frank Sheeran said he shot Hoffa to death.

Police in the Detroit suburb of Bloomfield Township received a report from the FBI crime lab Monday concluding that human blood from a male was on the floorboards but that the blood was not Hoffa's.

Oakland County Prosecutor David Gorceyca said that it was not known whose blood it was, but that the DNA would be entered into a national database.

"It really would be nice to put some closure on this case," Gorceyca said.

Hoffa was last seen on July 30, 1975, at a restaurant in Bloomfield Township. Sheeran died in 2003.

## Businesses destroyed

**VT** WHITE RIVER JUNCTION — A fire destroyed several businesses in a downtown building, but there were no immediate reports of injuries.

More than 50 firefighters fought the flames for at least two hours, bringing them under control just after 8 p.m., said the retired Hartford fire chief, John Wood, who acted as a safety officer for responding emergency crews.

"When I came down here, there were flames shooting out the roof," said resident John Ashley. "They were adding water to it pretty quick."

The blaze broke out in a bar and destroyed adjoining businesses.

## A Texas-sized gift

**TX** HOUSTON — An oil heir's gift to a Houston museum could eventually add up to \$450 million.

Caroline Wiess Law, the daughter of one of Humble Oil Co.'s founders, made the Museum of Fine Art, Houston, the prime beneficiary of her estate after her death in 2003.

When all of Law's assets are sold and the legal proceedings conclude, possibly by the end of this year, the museum could net between \$400 million and \$450 million, said director Peter Marzio.

"In recent history, this would be one of the biggest — if not the biggest — cash gifts to an art museum," said Mimi Gaudieri, executive director, Association of Art Museum Directors in New York. "This money will help make Houston one of the most important museums in terms of programming and serving the public."

Law's giving would rank as No. 1 in non-art donations to museums on a list compiled by the Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University. The list tracks charitable donations of \$50 million and more.

## Nothing to crow about

**NY** AUBURN — Hunters killed more than 1,000 crows in an annual contest that has drawn national attention to this upstate New York community.

Thirty-four teams participated in the third annual crow shoot, killing 1,061 birds over two days, said organizer Tom Lennox.

The winning team shot 186 crows.

Meanwhile, protesters demonstrated outside City Hall this weekend to decry the hunt, some carrying placards that said "Stop the Cramage!"

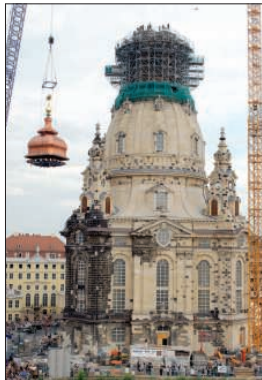
The city, 20 miles west of Syracuse in the Finger Lakes region, has been plagued for nearly two decades by a roost of crows that has grown to nearly 64,000 birds.

Photos and stories from wire reports



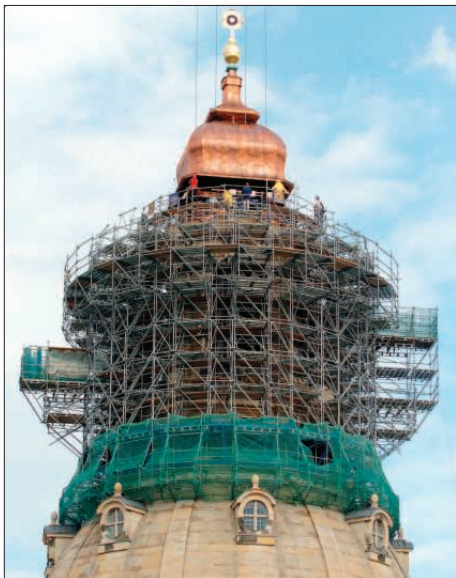


# Stripes Travel



AP photos

Spectators in Dresden, Germany, watch as a copper domed roof and golden cross are lifted to the top of the famous Frauenkirche in June 2004. The details were among the final touches to the restoration of the exterior of the church, which was destroyed by allied bomb attacks in 1945. For the next 50 years, it lay in rubble on the city's historic marketplace, a symbol of the devastation of war.



## Dresden: Back on top

BY SUSAN SPANO  
*Los Angeles Times*

**Y**ou can't get lost in Dresden. Wherever you go, you can see the stately white dome of the Frauenkirche, as much a landmark in this eastern German city as St. Peter's is in Rome.

It isn't just that the church towers 300 feet above Dresden's lovely baroque skyline, that its colossal dome was an architectural marvel when consecrated in 1734, or that it stood for religious tolerance in a Protestant city ruled by the Catholic electors of Saxony. Even its extraordinary acoustics, which inspired compos-

er Richard Wagner, don't fully explain its profound meaning to Dresden and the world.

Its significance stems from its destruction in the waning days of World War II. Allied bombs, dropped from the sky the night of Feb. 13, 1945 — 60 years ago last Sunday — destroyed up to 80 percent of the city and killed 25,000 people and maybe more. (Casualty figures vary because of the many refugees passing through the city at the time.) The Frauenkirche, or Church of Our Lady, continued to stand above the burning pyre until, structurally undermined, it collapsed without warning the morning of Feb. 15.

SEE DRESDEN, PAGE 22





AP photos

At left, the image of August Schreitmüller's sandstone sculpture "Gute, or "Goodness," overlooking the destroyed city Dresden in 1945 became famously associated with the destruction of World War II. At right, the statue towers over a decidedly different-looking city today.

#### DRESDEN, FROM PAGE 21

For the next 50 years, it lay in rubble on the city's historic marketplace, a symbol of the devastation of war.

Now it has risen again, rebuilt of bits and pieces salvaged from the ruins, in an 11-year, \$175-million project funded largely by international donations. From America came almost \$3 million, raised by Gunter Blobel, a 1999 Nobel laureate for medicine who donated nearly \$1 million in prize money to the project. As an 8½-year-old war refugee, he passed through Dresden when it was intact. "For a child," he said of the Dresden of that day, "it was like a fantasy."

The completion of the Frauenkirche's exterior last summer was marked by the placement of a golden cross and orb atop the cupola, a replica of the 18th-century original. It was made by British silversmith Alan Smith, whose father flew a bomber to Dresden that night in 1945.

The interior is scheduled to be finished just in time for the 800th birthday celebration of the German city in 2006.

To prepare for the event, museums, gardens, squares, palaces, the railway station and whole city blocks are being renovated. When the scaffolding finally comes down, it won't be hard to imagine what Dresden was like before World War II: cultivated, pleasure-loving, one of Europe's most cherished "grand tour" cities, filled with Italian masters and rare Oriental porcelain, the architectural height of the German Baroque.

The old part of the city, or Altstadt, sits high above the Elbe River on a graceful terrace that 18th-century playwright Johann

Wolfgang von Goethe called the "balcony of Europe."

With its forested ridges, castles and vineyards, the Elbe Valley was recently named a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Even in the heart of the city, the river retains its bucolic character, with more meadows than its flanks than stone embankments.

With no skyscrapers and a population of just a half-million, Dresden is an open, airy city, easy to navigate. Signs lead to the Kempinski Hotel Taschenbergpalais, another handsomely renovated baroque landmark, pale yellow and trimmed with ornate white molding, occupying a city block and enclosing a courtyard. The

Taschenbergpalais was built in 1705, conveniently close to the royal palace, for Countess Anna Constantia von Cosel, the mistress of Augustus the Strong. Modeling himself on Louis XIV of France, he ruled Saxony with flourish from 1694 to 1733 and eventually became king of Poland.

It was Augustus the Strong and his son Augustus III (1696-1763), both passionate buyers and collectors, who gave Dresden its great baroque art and architecture. To better understand the style, which many contemporaries consider over the top, even vulgar, I visited the Zwinger, a large, rectangular

pleasure ground enclosed by galleries, towers and gates.

To walk through the Zwinger is to feel your spirits rise. Nearly everywhere you look, from the gold-gilded Crown Gate on the southwest side to the adjacent Rampart Pavilion, with its twin curving staircases, there is elaboration. Naked stone satyrs, putti and nymphs wreath their arch-

ways, gaze down from the balustrades of the upper terrace and congregate around the pool and fountain, blissfully unashamed to bare their generous breasts and behinds. The buildings around the courtyard are occupied by three of the 12 museums that make up

Dresden's seemingly boundless State Art Collections, a great part of it amassed by Augustus the Strong and Augustus III. That afternoon, I visited the Zwinger's Porcelain Museum. It's a natural in a city known for fine white pottery like that made in China but not fabricated in Europe until 1706 when an alchemist working for Augustus the Strong set up a secret workshop in nearby Meissen.

Together with Oriental objects d'art acquired by the porcelain-made elector, notable examples of Meissen china, as it came to be called, are displayed in the museum, including a zoo of almost life-size animals: peacocks,

sheep, foxes, lions and tigers.

Then, it was on to perhaps the city's most renowned museum, the Old Masters Picture Gallery, at the north corner of the Zwinger, with paintings chockablock on the walls. People naturally gravitate to Raphael's "Sistine Madonna," with its much-reproduced putti gazing up at Mary and Jesus.

But every room holds amazements: Canaletto's detailed Dresden cityscapes; massive Tintoretto and Veronese on biblical themes; Rembrandt's beguiling "Saskia With a Red Flower."

On another day, I took a river cruise on the spit-and-polish 1929 steamship Leipzig. We sailed east past three romantic villas perched high above the Elbe in the suburb of Loschwitz, then under the Blue Wonder, a filigreed steel suspension bridge built about the same time as the Eiffel Tower.

My destination was Pillnitz Castle, the summer residence of the Saxon electors, designed by Matthias Daniel Pöppelmann for Augustus the Strong, who traveled there by gondola. Three wings border a formal garden, two of them tangerine-colored with chinoiserie gables, lantern-shaped chimneys and Chinese friezes on the facades. The surrounding park is lush and shaded by mature copper beech, elm and pine trees.

I also drove to Moritzburg Castle, the hunting lodge of Augustus the Strong. It's on an artificial island in a lake about 30 minutes northwest of town. It's imposing but kitschy, decorated inside with several herds worth of antlers. Even in the formal banquet hall they line the walls from floor to ceiling.

There is little in tourist Dres-

dren to recall the catastrophe of 1945, so I felt compelled to seek out a reminder. On the way back from Moritzburg Castle, I stopped in the nearby Heidefriedhof cemetery, where the ashes of thousands who died in the firestorm were buried in mass graves. It's a strange, somber place without crosses and angels, just plots in a pine forest.

Confused, I found two attendants and tried to ask whether there was a World War II memorial in the cemetery. They spoke only German but directed me down a tree-lined path.

At the end, I found a stone circle surrounded by the names of World War II disaster sites, including Dresden.

The Luftwaffe poured hellfire over England during World War II. Frederick Taylor's well-researched book "Dresden: Tuesday 13 February 1945" reports that in spring 1942, Germany sent bombers to Exeter, Canterbury, Norwich and York. Their orders — as Nazi spokesman Baron Gustav Braun von Stum said to have told the press — were to destroy "every building in England marked with three stars in the Baedeker Guide."

The Allies reciprocated, wasting one German city after another. All the while, Dresden remained untouched, too beautiful and historic to target, people thought. That is, until that February night just months before the end of the war.

It's frivolous, perhaps, to rue the destruction of tourist sites in the same breath as the human casualties of war. But to lose a Frauenkirche is to lose history, art and culture that cannot easily be recovered. In Dresden, they have been, which makes the city doubly precious.



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# Treasures of a golden boy

## Bonn exhibit peeks into King Tut's life and death

BY JAYNE TRAENDLY  
Special to Stars and Stripes

**A**ncient Egyptians believed that the preservation of a person's name in funerary texts was essential for his or her survival in the afterlife. If that's the case, King Tutankhamen — better known as "King Tut" — can rest easily, thanks to all the advertising on an exhibition bearing his name in Bonn, Germany.

Fifty funerary pieces in "Tutankhamen — The Golden Beyond: Tomb Treasures from the Valley of the Kings" are on display through May 1 in the city's Kunst- und Ausstellungshalle der Bundesrepublik Deutschland. The exhibition also includes 70 pieces from other temples and tombs of the 18th Dynasty (about 1550 to 1308 B.C.), considered by experts to be the high point of advanced ancient Egyptian civilization.

Aside from his treasures, little is known of this pharaoh. Probably taking the throne as a child and living only to 17 or 18 years, his major claim to fame was reinstalling the worship of the country's gods and goddesses after his predecessor (and possible father) Akhenaten had briefly introduced the concept of one god, the sun god, Aten. It was only after the discovery of Tut's tomb in 1922 by archaeologist Howard Carter, and its preserved funerary pieces — 5,000 objects in four chambers — that his name became widespread in the modern world.

The Kunsthalle exhibit represents only a small portion of the tomb's holdings. But its limited size allows you a two-hour immersion into the royal life of ancient Egypt.

Each of the 120 pieces — *shabti*s (funerary figures), busts, coffins, jewelry, weapons, statuettes, musical instruments, reliefs, furniture and other common royal household goods — is set up in its own case, most of which allow you to study the specimens from all sides. Much of the color is so fresh — turquoise, blues, oranges and greens — it's difficult to imagine the pieces are thousands of years old.

The case descriptions, as well as historical notes on the walls, are in both German and English.

In addition, you can rent audio guides with numbered recordings in English for more information and stories about ancient life. And it's these background details, with explanations of the highly symbolic art and motifs of ancient Egypt, that breathe life into the pieces, creating a bridge between the ancients' mentality and our own.

For these Egyptians, death was not the end of existence but merely an interruption. Eternal life could be guaranteed by revering the gods, mummification and the proper statues and statuettes



Made of gold, carnelian, rock crystal, obsidian and glass, this highly detailed miniature mummy coffinet with mask is one of four that held Tutankhamen's embalmed organs. It had originally been made for Queen Nefertiti.



Photos courtesy of Kunst- und Ausstellungshalle

This chest, probably used to store small objects, was found in the tomb of Yuya and Tuya, the in-laws of Amenthotep III, who had married their daughter, Ti. Made of wood, ivory, ebony and faience, the box's symbolic artwork expresses wishes of long life and prosperity.



The largest scene in Tutankhamen's pectoral, or jewelry that hung over the chest, shows the pharaoh standing between the seated Memphite deity couple Sekhmet, left, and Ptah.

and other funeral accompaniments in the tomb. It was crucial to preserve and protect the physical body so that the Ka, Ba and Akhu (parts of the Egyptian "soul") could recognize and be rejoined with that body in the afterlife.

Something as simple as the wooden, resin-baked panther, for example, was an important statue with its own mission. Believed to have originally belonged to a group of other funerary figures, it probably represents the goddess Maftet, who accompanied the king to his afterlife, protecting him from

any dangerous snakes and scorpions that lay in their way.

Good coffins with the proper inscriptions were essential, since it was believed they protected the body from deterioration or mutilation.

One of the larger pieces in the exhibit is the mummy-shaped wooden outer coffin of Tuya, the mother-in-law of King Amenhotep III, discovered in another tomb. This elaborate coffin, a little more than 7 feet long and about 3 feet deep when lying flat, is entirely gilded in brilliant Egyptian gold leaf. Its head — an important section as it provided



The lid of a box found in King Tut's tomb contained jewelry, a mirror case and royal insignia.

the person with a face in the afterlife and allowed the spirits to recognize the body — is stylized with the typical wig and black-lined eyes. The coffin body is inscribed with a multitude of symbolic deity figures and funerary inscriptions to guide the body into the afterlife.

As well as body protection, the king needed his "household goods," many of which show Egyptian art's influence on contemporary design. For instance, Tutankhamen's pectoral — jewelry that hung over the chest — depicts detailed scenes of the pharaoh with the gods and repre-



### If you go

The King Tutankhamen exhibition is very popular. On busy days, especially weekends, admission is timed. Visitors might want to consider buying advance tickets with reserved date and time online at [www.kunsthalle-bonn.de](http://www.kunsthalle-bonn.de) (in English and German). Admission is 14 euros for adults, 9 euros for children and 19 euros for a family of two adults and one child. This includes admission to the other exhibits in the museum. The museum houses a cafe, restaurant and gift shop.

The Kunst- und Ausstellungshalle der Bundesrepublik Deutschland is on the Museumsmeile in Bonn at Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 4. The Web site includes a map with directions. The museum is open 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Mondays and 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesdays through Sunday.

— JAYNE TRAENDLY

sents their relationships. Many of these gods' figures are in vogue today, such as the lion-headed Sekhmet, the winged goddess Maat, cobras, the Horus falcon and the jackal-headed Anubis.

Also interesting to study are blown-up photos of Carter's 1922 tomb discoveries hung on the walls. Their life size gives you the opportunity to stand in his team's shoes and glimpse the find as it was uncovered, last seen by people who lived thousands of years ago.

The exhibition includes a computer-animated film on the tomb architecture in the Old and New Kingdoms, focusing on the 18th Dynasty. English translations are available on rental tapes.

There is some discussion on whether the exhibit will go to the United States or back to Egypt after its rare overseas appearance. So to be safe, go now to see this fascinating display of ancient Egyptian royal life.

Jayne Traendly is a freelance writer living in Germany.



# Markets display the art of the egg

BY MICHAEL ABRAMS

Stars and Stripes

**A**t Easter, the common egg — best known as something eaten for breakfast — can become an exquisite piece of art.

To see for yourself, head to one of the many *Ostereiermärkte* — Easter egg markets — that pop up around Germany this time of year. You can admire what a talented, steady hand can do with an egg.

There are wax-coated eggs with designs etched into them, and eggs covered with colorful beads. Some have lace worked around them, and others have been hollowed out and perforated. Some have folkloric designs painted on them, while others are adorned with Easter bunnies.

The art is not just applied to chicken eggs, either. There are decorated goose eggs and duck eggs as well.

Popular this time of year are eggs with the Lord's Prayer written on them. This might not sound like too big of a feat when painting an ostrich egg, but try fitting it on a quail egg. Like we said, talented and steady hands.

Not all of the eggs we saw at a recent market in Seligenstadt, Germany, were originally edible, either. There were also wooden eggs and eggs made of stone, ceramic and porcelain. (You have another chance to see them at the Seligenstadt monastery this weekend.)

As you can imagine, this art comes at a price, and there are avid egg collectors. True, you can pick up a beautiful egg for as little as 6 euros, but be prepared to shell out (pun intended) up to 1,000 euros for one decorated with gold.

The eggs make nice gifts for family and friends, and are unique souvenirs of your European tour.

And hanging from pussywillow or forsythia branches in a vase, they are a cheerful dash of color to brighten the house during the last days of winter.

E-mail Michael Abrams at: [abramsm@mail.strips.osd.mil](mailto:abramsm@mail.strips.osd.mil).



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

Shoppers check out the goods at the Easter egg market in Seligenstadt, Germany. Another market will be held at the monastery there this weekend.



Above: These eggs on display at Seligenstadt were coated with a special wax before the colored beads were pressed on to make the designs.

Below: A skilled hand decorates an egg at the market.

Above: A popular way to display decorated Easter eggs is to hang them on tree branches placed in a vase.

Left: You can buy other Easter decorations, such as these handsome bunnies made of cast iron, at the season's Easter egg markets.

## UPCOMING EASTER EGG MARKETS

Here is a sampling of Easter egg markets scheduled for the upcoming weeks in Germany. The list includes the name of town and venue.

### Feb. 19-20

Alsfeld, Stadthalle  
Braunfels, Haus des Gastes  
Ludwigsburg, Schlosspark  
Mannheim, Lützenpark  
Maulbronn, Kloster  
Seligenstadt, Kloster

### Feb. 26-27

Erlangen, Gemeindehaus am  
Bohlenplatz  
Frankfurt, Dominikanerkloster  
Metzingen, Festkeller (also Feb. 26)  
Schwetzingen, Schloss

### March 5-6

Andechs, Kloster (also March 4)

Friedberg, Stadthalle  
Michelstadt, Odenwaldhalle  
Neckarsulm-Oberseesheim,  
Festhalle bei der Schule  
Otzberg/Herring, Veste

### March 12-13

Lampertheim, Altrheinhalle  
Ostheim/Rhön, Kirchenburg  
Otzberg/Herring, Veste  
Ulm, Haus der Begegnung

### March 19-20

Cologne, Messe, Grosser  
Rheinsaal  
Neu-Anspach, Hessenpark

### March 27-28

Otzberg/Herring, Veste





Snow covers the fountains and formal garden at King Ludwig II's Linderhof palace, near Oberammergau, Germany.



A statue of Louis XIV, France's "Sun King," can be seen under a golden sun and a Latin emblem reading, "We are superior to all."

## If you go to Schloss Linderhof

Schloss Linderhof, near Bavaria's Oberammergau, is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily from April to September. Opening hours change according to the seasons.

Regular admission to the castle costs 7 euros, discounted admission is 6 euros. In winter, only the palace (not the park buildings) can be visited for a regular fee of 6 euros (discounted price 5 euros).

Tickets with a specific visiting time can be reserved by mail for an additional prepaid charge. The time can only be changed or the ticket canceled up to two hours before the start of the tour (also by phone). Visits to the grotto are possible only with a guided tour.

There is a shop and restaurant at the castle, and it is wheelchair-friendly. For more information, go to [www.linderhof.de](http://www.linderhof.de).

Tours to Linderhof depart the Edelweiss Lodge and Resort in Garmisch, Germany, on Wednesday and Sunday from September through May and costs \$29 for adults and \$21 for children. Call (+49) (0) 8821-9440 or go to [www.edelweisslodgeandresort.com](http://www.edelweisslodgeandresort.com).

SOURCE: [www.linderhof.de](http://www.linderhof.de)



Some paintings seem to pop off the walls at the Linderhof palace. This one, of Flora, the Roman goddess of flowers, is a masterpiece of King Ludwig II's Linderhof palace. The artist made the leg and feet of the drinker hanging out of the mural to make it look like she was about to fall out.

# Homage to Go

## Bavarian castle and monastery aim to

BY JESSICA INIGO

Stars and Stripes

**B**avaria, home of Germany's highest mountain, the Zugspitze, the fairytale castle of Neuschwanstein and the lively city of Munich, is one of Germany's most popular tourist destinations.

But it also has wonderful, lesser-known sites tucked into its beautiful mountains and valleys. The Armed Forces Recreation Center's Edelweiss Lodge and Resort in Garmisch conducts bus tours to some of these places off the beaten path, including a trip that goes to the Linderhof palace and the Ettal monastery.

King Ludwig II — Ludwig Friedrich Wilhelm — is known by many names: the Swan King, the Dream King and Mad Ludwig. They all refer to the fact that he lived in a dream world, draining Bavaria's treasury to build castles

and palaces where he could live out his fantasies.

While the greatest example is Neuschwanstein, it was not the only one. Linderhof was the only palace finished during Ludwig's lifetime and was one he visited frequently. It was designed as a royal hunting lodge, but grew into a magnificent villa where the king could live out his dreams.

The palace, built between 1874 and 1878 in the elaborate rococo style, pays homage to France's Sun King, Louis XIV, and is adorned with gold, velvet and artwork from top to bottom. It was Louis XIV who turned the chateau at Versailles into a magnificent palace, and a model for several of Ludwig's buildings.

A statue of the Sun King welcomes visitors to the entrance with a statue and emblem reading, "We are superior to all."

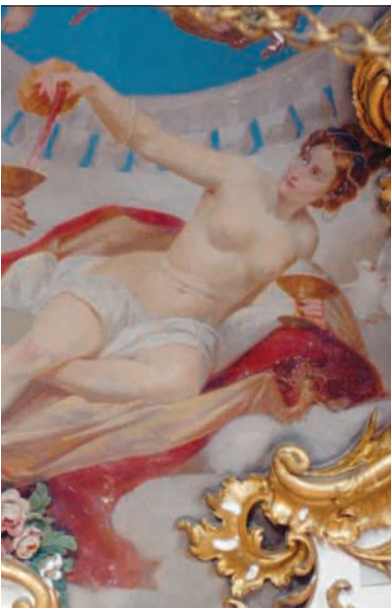
The massive bedroom, where Ludwig II slept in a bed 6½ feet

long and more than 8 feet wide surrounded by 108 burning candles, is just as the king left it, draped in blue velvet and bejeweled.

In the formal gardens outside the castle is the Grotto of Venus, an artificial cave that was opened by a secret latch. Inside, the cave features stalactites, a 10-foot-deep lake

(complete with a wave-making machine), a shell-shaped boat in which Ludwig could be rowed to his heart's content, and mural depicting a scene from Richard Wagner's "Tannhäuser."





PHOTOS BY JESSICA INIGO/Stars and Stripes

...ers, pouring wine graces the domed ceiling above the dining area of King  
t look as if he is stepping out of the painting.

# d and king

## high in grandiose imagery



opera. Lighting in the grotto could be changed by rotating colored glass disks powered by one of Germany's first generators. Another Bavarian Ludwig is responsible for the Ettal monastery, just a short drive from Linderhof. Emperor Ludwig the Bavarian had it built in 1330 for a group of

knights and Benedictine monks on his return from a war expedition. The monastery, built in the baroque style, burned down in 1733, and was rebuilt in its current rococo design. It is the largest Benedictine monastery in

Germany and dominates the village of Ettal.

The heart of the building is the basilica, with its nearly 200-foot-high dome and gigantic fresco inside. The dome's painted heaven, created by Jacob Zeiller around 1751-52, gives the effect of having no ceiling.

The monastery also has a brewery, guesthouses, farm, boarding school and a library.

Outside the monastery walls, different varieties of schnapps and liqueurs are produced — including the liqueur Ettaler, which is made from a centuries-old recipe using mountain herbs and is supposed to have health-giving properties. Visitors can sample several of them, ranging from the very strong to lighter and sweeter choices, before heading back to Garmisch for the evening.

E-mail Jessica Inigo at:  
inigoj@mail.estripes.osd.mil.



The Ettal monastery remains a working Benedictine monastery with its own hotel, distillery, shop and brewery. The beer is also served on the monastery grounds in the brewery bar.



The Baroque goal of letting heaven break into Earth comes across when looking at the domed ceiling of the Ettal monastery. The Baroque period, full of imagery and descriptiveness, places this spiritual world over the heads of its guests.

## If you go to Ettal monastery

The monastery is open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. from November through March, and 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. from April through October.

There is no charge for admission.

If you get to Ettal, you'll have no trouble finding monastery. However, its address is: Benediktinerabtei Ettal Kaiser-Ludwig-Platz 1 82488 Ettal. Phone: (+49) (0) 8822-740; fax (+49) (0) 8822-74228.

For information about the monastery's brewery, e-mail [brauerei@kloster-ettal.de](mailto:brauerei@kloster-ettal.de), call (+49) (0) 8822-74413 or fax (+49) (0) 8822-74412.

The monastery has a contemporary Web site at: [www.kloster-ettal.de](http://www.kloster-ettal.de).

SOURCE: [www.kloster-ettal.de](http://www.kloster-ettal.de)



COMPILED BY  
KAREN BRADBURY  
Stars and Stripes

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## Clubs

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Telephone: 0434 366 185 (Gloria  
Leonarduzzi, Vice President)

# Ski Events

**Trips: March 11-13**, Molltaler  
Glacier, Austria, \$120.

### GERMANY

#### FRANKFURT INTERNATIONAL SKI CLUB

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E-mail: [info@fiscweb.org](mailto:info@fiscweb.org)  
Web site: [www.fiscweb.org](http://www.fiscweb.org)

**Trips: Feb. 25-27**, Zell am See,  
Austria, 200 euros; **Feb. 26-  
March 5**, Barf, Alberta, Canada,  
790 euros (airfare not included);  
**March 4-5**, Disent/Sodnau, Swit-  
zerland, 185 euros; **March 10-13**,  
Chamonix, France, 295 euros;  
**March 11-13**, Fims: Laax, Switzer-  
land, 195 euros; **March 18-20**,  
Klosters, Switzerland, 255 euros;  
**March 24-26**, St. Moritz, Switzer-

land, 340 euros; **March 26-April  
2**, Val Thorens, France, 485 euros;  
**April 1-3**, St. Anton II, Austria, 195  
euros; **April 8-10**, Lech, Austria,  
205 euros; **April 14-17**, Zermatt,  
Switzerland, 295 euros; **April 28-  
May 1**, Ischgl, Austria, 270 euros;  
**June 16-19**, Chiemsee Adventure,  
Germany, 285 euros; **July 1-4**,  
Sächsische Schweiz, Germany, 265  
euros.  
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hotmail.com  
**Trips: March 18-20**,  
Zell am See, Austria, price TBA.  
**HEIDELBERG  
INTERNATIONAL SKI CLUB**  
Telephone: 06202-577-8422  
E-mail: [president@heidelbergski.com](mailto:president@heidelbergski.com)  
Web site: [www.heidelbergski.com](http://www.heidelbergski.com)  
**Trips: March 4-6**, Zell am See,  
Austria, 190 euros; **March 18-20**,  
Davos/Klosters, Switzerland, 245  
euros; **March 19-26**, Tignes,  
France, 785 euros; **April 1-3**,  
Engelberg, Switzerland, 285 euros;  
**SEE SKI EVENTS, PAGE 29**



### Alpine snow conditions

Resort	Snow Depth in"	ON Piste Info	OFF Piste Info	Runs Open	Runs Closed	General Information
Kaunertal, AUS	150/40	Excellent	Powder	Good	8/8	Great skiing due to recent snowfalls
Mayrhofen, AUS	145/40	Excellent	Powder	Good	24/24	Much better cond., due to new snow
Neuwelt, AUS	300/50	Good	Varied	Good	17/24	The best cond., ever on the upper slopes
Oberstdorf, AUS	280/70	Excellent	Powder	Good	12/27	Limited skiing due to high avalanche risk
PIEL, AUS	245/60	Excellent	Varied	Closed	4/7	A dusting of snow has improved the pistes
St. Anton, AUS	300/95	Excellent	Powder	Excellent	37/83	35cm of fresh snow
Zell am See, AUS	175/80	Excellent	Powder	Good	29/28	Much better cond., due to new snow
Chamonix, FR	170/50	Good	Powder	Good	11/47	40 cm of fresh snow
Les Deux Alpes, FR	120/50	Good	Packed	Packed	27/54	Improving cond., thanks to the new snow
Val d'Isère, FR	125/105	Excellent	Powder	Excellent	23/47	Great powder cond., & refreshed pistes
Garmisch, GER	265/50	Excellent	Powder	Good	14/27	A dusting of snow has improved the pistes
Feldberg, GER	140/130	Excellent	Powder	Good	27/28	Fresh powder has improved the pistes
Cortina, IT	100/50	Excellent	Powder	Good	47/47	15 cm of fresh snow has improved cond.
Livigno, IT	137/53	Good	Varied	Good	32/32	Improving cond., 10 cm of fresh snow
Pinna Tene, IT	100/70	Hard	Packed	Artificial	19/18	The cond. are okay, more snow is better
Engelberg, SW	310/150	Excellent	Varied	Good	6/26	30 cm of new snow to play in
Saas Fee, SW	245/52	Excellent	Varied	Good	6/22	A dusting of snow has improved the pistes
Verbier, SW	150/80	Excellent	Powder	Excellent	21/25	Superb conditions, plenty of nice snow
Zermatt, SW	229/159	Good	Varied	Good	35/35	A dusting of snow has improved the pistes

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## SKI EVENTS, FROM PAGE 28

**April 8-10**, Arberg, 210 euros;  
**April 9-16**, Val Thorens, France,  
 (200-340 euros); **April 29-May 1**,  
 Ischgl (220 euros); **May 27-30**,  
 Badense (290 euros).

## KAISERSLAUTERN SKI CLUB

Telephone: 06303-4751

E-mail: carperb@msn.com

Web site: www.klownskiclub.com

**Trips: Feb. 26-March 5**, Trois  
 Vallées, France, 480 euros; **March**  
**18-20**, Lenzerheide, Switzerland,  
 210 euros; **April 1-3**, Verbier,  
 Switzerland, 150 euros; **April**  
**22-24**, Lech, Austria, 215 euros. A  
 non-refundable 50-euro deposit is  
 required for all trip sign-ups.

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 Payne.timothy@nato.school.nato.int

Web site: www.natoschool.nato.int  
 select "NATO School Lodge &  
 Community Club"

**Trips: Feb. 25-27**, Switzerland  
 (TBA); **March 6**, Seefeld, Austria;  
**March 12**, Ischgl, Austria; **March**  
**19-20**, Passo Pordoi, Italy; **April**  
**2**, Zugspitze, Germany.

## Ski Events

MANNHEIM INTERNATIONAL  
SKI CLUB

Telephone: Janet-Anne Boykin  
 at 06206-75268

E-mail: boykinjan@hotmail.com

Web site: http://ski.no-ip.info

**Trips: March 4-6**, Lech/Zürs/St.  
 Anton, Austria, 130 euros; **March**  
**11-13**, Montafon, Austria, 130  
 euros; **March 18-20**, Verbier,  
 Switzerland, 140 euros; **April 9-16**,  
 Meribel, France, price TBA. Prices  
 based on double occupancy, suppli-  
 ment for singles.

## PATCH SKI CLUB

Area: Stuttgart

Telephone: DSN 430-5789

E-mail: info@psc-ski.org

Web site: www.patchskiclub.org

**Trips: March 4-6**, Gstaad, Switzer-  
 land, 200 euros; **March 17-20**,  
 Chamonix, France, 390 euros; **April**  
**7-10**, St. Moritz, Switzerland; **April**  
**7-10**, April 9-16, Val Thorens,  
 France, 320 euros; **April 29-May**  
**1**, Ischgl, Austria, 220 euros; **May**  
**27-30**, Lermoos, Austria, 200  
 euros; **May 27-30**, Siegl Golf

I-St.Veit, Austria, 260 euros. Costs  
 are based on double occupancy.

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Telephone: 06301-3478

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**Trips: March 4-6**, Jungfrau, Switzer-  
 land, 160 euros; **March 11-13**,  
 Flims-Laax, 185 euros; **March 1-3**,  
 Engelberg, Switzerland, 200 euros;  
**April 8-10**, St. Anton, Austria, 165  
 euros; **April 29-May 1**, Ischgl,  
 Austria, 205 euros. All trips are by  
 bus except the Siegl trips, which are  
 U-drives. U-drive arrangements can  
 be made for other trips.

WESTPFALZ INTERNATIONAL  
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 munity

Web site: www.westpfalzskiclub.  
 org

Telephone: 06371-598537

E-mail: kdsowell@interquest.de

**Trips: March 6-12**, St. Veit, Aus-  
 tria, 380 euros, including ski school;  
**March 11-13**, Zill Am See, Aus-  
 tria, 220 euros; **April 8-10**, Lech,  
 Austria, 220 euros; **April 29-May**  
**1**, Ischgl, Austria, 215 euros.

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SKI CLUB

Telephone: 0932 19244525

E-mail: wskiclub@hotmail.com

Web site: www.wskiclub.org

**Trips: March 4-6**, Jungfrau, Swit-  
 zerland, 190 euros; **March 14-20**,  
 St. Moritz, Switzerland, 400 euros;  
**April 29-May 1**, Ischgl, Austria,  
 230 euros; **May 13-15**, Landeck,  
 Austria, price TBA; **May 28-31**, St.  
 Veit, Austria, price TBA.

Outdoor  
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## ITALY

## VICENZA OUTDOOR RECREATION: March 5 and 26.

Oberbergen, Italy; **March 12 and**  
**April 2**, San Martino, Italy;

**March 19**, Alleghe, Italy. Sign up  
 the Sunday before DSN 634-7453.

## GERMANY

## BAUMHOLDER OUTDOOR

**RECREATION: Feb. 25-27 and**  
**March 11-13**, Interlaken, Switzer-  
 land, \$125 transport and equipment  
 rental, hostel \$25 per night, lift pass-  
 es, two days for 72 euros. **March**  
**26**, Black Forest (Feldberg), \$65  
 adults, \$45 children. DSN 485-7182.

## GIESSEN OUTDOOR RECREATION: Feb. 26, Garmisch, Ger-

many, one overnight in new Edel-  
 weiss Hotel, \$139/\$89/\$49. **Feb.**  
**26**, Winterberg, Germany, \$59.  
 DSN 343-8202

## HANAU OUTDOOR RECREATION: Feb. 24-25 and 28-29,

Black Forest, Germany, overnight  
 with two kids, \$109 adults, \$89  
 children; **March 4-6**, Stubaal,  
 Austria including transport, hotel,  
 breakfast and dinner, and two days  
 skiing, adult \$159, child 6-12 \$125,  
 under 5 years \$69, single room  
 supplement \$30; **March 17-20**,  
 Dolomiti Bellamonte, Italy, including  
 transportation, two hotel overnights  
 with breakfast and dinner, and two  
 days of skiing, \$199/\$179/\$99, \$30  
 single room supplement. Lessons  
 available: skiing \$45 per person for  
 four hours per day; snowboarding, \$59  
 per person, 6 hours per day. DSN  
 322-6015 or CIV 06183-516015.

SEE SKI EVENTS, PAGE 30

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**Outdoor Recreation Ski Schedule**

Kaiserslautern Pulaski Barracks, 489-7751/0431-536-7751  
 Feb. 18-21 Leuterbrunnen, Switzerland  
 Feb. 19, 20, 22 & 26 Ski Express  
 Feb. 25 - 27 St. Anton, Switzerland  
 Mannheim Imperial Barracks, 381-7215/0421-730-7215  
 Feb. 19 & 25 Engelberg, Switzerland  
 Feb. 21 Family Ski Trip to Feldberg, Germany  
 Darmstadt Cantabri Fritsch Barracks, 340-6277/0451-49-6277  
 Feb. 26 & Mar. 26 Feldberg, Germany  
 Mar. 11-13 US Forces Ski Bases Garmisch, Germany  
 Heidelberg Perleth Hill Village, 368-8282/0421-330-9282  
 Feb. 26 Skiing Feldberg, Germany

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# Volksmarch

The annual walk in Rothenturm bei der Tauber, Germany, takes place next weekend, so pick up next Thursday's column to read more about this "must" walk for literally thousands of folks, and one that I highlight every year.

The Wanderclub "Starke Solhe e.V." Idar Oberstein, Germany hosts its 22nd volksmarch this weekend in the town of Weierbach at the

Hessenstein Halle. The 6K and 10K start on Saturday from 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., Sunday from 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. If you're up to a 20K trail, begin between 7:30 and 1 p.m. Saturday or 7:30 a.m. to noon on Sunday. The club offers its traditional stone souvenir for completing a trail.

Notes about this week's events:

- Nordic walking enthusiasts can hit the 6-kilometer course at Bad Marienberg, Germany, on Saturday and Sunday between 9 and 11 a.m.
- The Original Rainer Echo will play in the start hall on Sunday between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. in Darnheim, Germany.
- A 6-inch ceramic shoe with a bird's nest is the prize at Fessenbach this weekend. Located on the outskirts of Offenbach, Germany, this club is hosting a 1 to 4 p.m. walks on Saturday and 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. walks on Sunday. Both days' distances are 5 and 10 kilometers. Finish Saturday by 6 p.m., Sunday by 5 p.m.
- Start the Ingolstadt, Germany, walk at the Handwerkskammer und Berufsbildungszentrum am Brückenkopf. Coffee cups from previous years are the souvenirs for the 5-, 10- and 20-kilometer trails.
- To reach Gersweiler, Germany, take Autobahn 6 and then A620 toward Saarbrücken. Take

the Gersweiler exit and follow the IVV signs to the Sportzentrum. You'll find yourself walking along the French-German border at this volksmarch event.

• The final two Swiss Winter Walking events take place in March. Walk in Kreuzlingen on March 12 and 13 and in Bäretswil on March 20.

• Notes from Clark Soeldner, our Italian walking expert: Sunday's Marano Vincento event begins in the sports complex on

Here are events sanctioned by the International Federation of Popular Sports (Internationaler Volkssportverband, or IVV) near U.S. military installations in Europe. Locations are noted in the host language when possible. Find more extensive lists on the Web at [www.ivv.org](http://www.ivv.org).

Country/Town	Day(s) and Time(s)	Code	Km.	Starting Point	Award	Directional Reference
<b>France</b>						
Beinheim	Sun 0800-1400	F	10	Salle polyvalente	No award	NW of Baden-Baden, GE
Elsheim	Sat & Sun 0800-1400	F	10	Salle Communale	No award	NE of Colmar
<b>Germany</b>						
Bad Marienberg	Sat & Sun 0730-1400	F	6 & 10	Turnhalle	Candle holder	RP, N of Limburg
Bad Marienberg	Sat & Sun 0900-1100	FN	6	Turnhalle	Candle holder	RP, N of Limburg
Bad Marienberg	Sat & Sun 0730-1300	F	20	Turnhalle	Candle holder	RP, N of Limburg
Darnheim	Sat 0700-1400, Sun 0700-1300	FPY	5, 10, 20	Mehrzweckhalle	Model bus	BWS, SE of Pforzheim
Darnheim	Sun 0800-1230	Swim		Mehrzweckhalle	Model bus	BWS, SE of Pforzheim
Fessenbach	Sat 1300-1600, Sun 0700-1300	F	5 & 10	Rebland-Halle	Ceramic shoe	SAR, W of Saarbrücken
Gersweiler	Sat & Sun 0700-1300	F	5 & 10	Sportzentrum	No award	MOB, SW of Regensburg
Ingolstadt	Sat 1000-1400, Sun 0700-1100	BFY	5, 10, 20	Handwerkskammer	B-medal/Coffee cup	RP, E of Idar Oberstein
Weierbach	Sat 0730-1400, Sun 0730-1300	Fs	6 & 10	Hessenstein Halle	Amethyst souvenir	RP, E of Idar Oberstein
Weierbach	Sat 0730-1300, Sun 0730-1200	F	20	Hessenstein Halle	B-medal	BWN, SE of Crailsheim
Westgarthausen	Sun 0700-1400	BFXY	6 & 11	Turnhalle	B-medal	
<b>Italy</b>						
Cason San Pietro	Sun 0830-0930	F	6, 12, 20	Dai Casoni	Bottle of wine	SE of Verona
Marano Vincento	Sun 0800-0900	F	5, 10, 18	Sports complex	Plant	SE of Verona
Mestrino	Sun 0830-0930	F	6, 13, 21	Distillerie Bonollo	Bottle of grappa	NW of Padova
Trivignano	Sun 0830-0900	FX	7, 14, 21	By town pool	Salami (1st tappa)	NW of Venice
<b>Luxembourg</b>						
Düdelingen (Dudelange)	Sun 0700-1400	F	5 & 12	Schule (Ecole) Brill	No award	SE of Esch-sur-Alzette
<b>Netherlands</b>						
Schijndel	Sun 0800-1400	-	7, 14, 21	Manege Het Rijpaard	No award	N of Brunnsum
Schijndel	Sun 0800-1300	-	28	Manege Het Rijpaard	No award	N of Brunnsum
<b>Switzerland</b>						
Goltschach	Sat & Sun 0800-1300	-	5 & 10	Kath. Pfarrheim	Cow glass	NE of St. Gallen
<b>United Kingdom</b>						
Everdon	Sun 1000-1100	-	10 & 20	The Plough PH	Souvenir	W of Northampton
Scamlebury	Sun 0900-1130	-	10 & 20	The Green Man	No award	NE of Lincoln

the Gersweiler exit and follow the IVV signs to the Sportzentrum. You'll find yourself walking along the French-German border at this volksmarch event.

• The final two Swiss Winter Walking events take place in March. Walk in Kreuzlingen on March 12 and 13 and in Bäretswil on March 20.

• Notes from Clark Soeldner, our Italian walking expert: Sunday's Marano Vincento event begins in the sports complex on

Viale Europa.

The signpost at Mestrino stop at 8:15 a.m. There is also a competitive run of 21K that starts at 9:30 a.m. Get there early as parking can be a problem for later arrivals. The bottle of grappa costs 2.70 euros.

The town pool on Via Vicentino is the start location for the Trivignano walk on Sunday.

E-mail Jennifer West at [volksmarch@msl-services.com](mailto:volksmarch@msl-services.com). Write: Volksmarch Column, Stars and Stripes, Bldg. 2829, Ft. Belvoir, Barracks, APO AE 09227-3717 (MPS).

## GENERAL CODES:

B - Awards from past events available (B-medals)

C - Bring a cup for free refreshments at the control points

D - Shower/Wash facilities at start hall

F - Free refreshment at control points

M - Marathon or long-distance event

N - Nordic walking event

P - Music at start hall

S - Stroller-friendly trails

Sh - Shorter trail noted as stroller-friendly

T - Evening/Night walk, carry a flashlight

X - Award available while supply lasts

W - Course suitable for wheelchair

Y - Reduced price of 2.50 euros for start card & B-medal

3.5 - Reduced price of 3.50 euros for start card & B-medal

## GERMAN REGION CODES:

BWN - Baden-Württemberg Nord

BWS - Baden-Württemberg Süd

FRO - Oberfranken (Upper Franken)

FRM - Mittelfranken (Middle Franken)

FRU - Unterfranken (Lower Franken)

HE - Hessen

MOB - München-Oberbayern

NDS - Niedersachsen/Berlin

NRW - Nordrhein-Westfalen

NDB - Niederbayern

OP - Oberpfalz

RP - Rheinland-Pfalz

SAR - Saarland

SCH - Schwaben

SHH - Schleswig-Holstein/Hamburg

THS - Thüringen/Sachsen

## WEB SITES:

GERMANY

<http://ava.org/foibe/germany/>

ITALY

<http://digilander.iol.it/stevens/walking.html>

NETHERLANDS

[www.beanto.nl.com/northwalks](http://www.beanto.nl.com/northwalks)

## UNITED KINGDOM

[www.bwl-ivv.org.uk](http://www.bwl-ivv.org.uk)

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# Calendar

# Let's Go

## COMPILED BY JAYNE TRAEENDLY Special to Stars and Stripes

Listings are the latest information available at press time, but are subject to change. It's best to check with the local tourist board to confirm details of the event before traveling.

### AUSTRIA

**www.austria.info.at**  
VIENNA: Johann Strauss ball, **March 19**  
VIENNA: Dream on ice, **through March 6**. Ice skating in front of the City Hall.  
RAUHRIS: International Dog Sleigh Race on the Gold trail, **Feb. 25-27**.  
INNERKREMS: Dog sled races, Euro championship, **March 11-13**.  
VIENNA: Easter market, **March 12-23**. Castle Schönbrunn.  
HALL: Easter festival, **March 14, 19, 24-25**.  
VIENNA: OsterKlang Festival, **March 18-28**.  
SALZBURG: Easter festival, **March 19-28**.

### BELGIUM

**www.visitbelgium.com**  
BRUSSELS: WALLONIA: Beer 2005, **through 2005**.  
BRUSSELS: Antiques show, **through 30**. Tour & Taxis.  
STAYELOUT: Mid-Lent carnival, **March 6**.  
BRUSSELS: Festival of fantastic film, **March 11-26**.  
TOURNAI: Flower market, **March 25**.

### CZECH REPUBLIC

**www.visitczechia.cz**  
PRAGUE: Easter markets, **March 18-April 8**. Old Town and Wences Squares.

### DENMARK

**www.visitdenmark.com**  
BILLUND: Legoland open, **March 19-Oct. 30**.

### ENGLAND

**www.visitbritain.com**  
YORK: Viking festival, **through Feb. 20**.  
LONDON: Outdoor adventure show, **Feb. 18-20**.  
LONDON: International tourist guide day, **Feb. 19**.  
LONDON: National wedding show, **Feb. 25-27**. Olympia.  
LONDON: Winter bearfest, **Feb. 27**. Kensington Town Hall.  
LONDON: International drive show, **March 5-6**. ExCel Docklands.  
BIRMINGHAM: Crutts dog show, **March 10-13**. NEC.  
LONDON: Classical live, **March 18-23**. Classical music and instruments exhibit, Olympia.  
LONDON: Boat race, **March 27**.  
LONDON: Stitch 2005, **March 31-April 3**. Needlecrafts, Olympia.  
**FRANCE**  
**www.francetourism.com**  
METZ: Flea market, **Feb. 19; April 2, 16**. 6 a.m.-1 p.m.  
STRASBOURG: Annual winter sports sales, **through Feb. 22**.  
METZ: Annual winter sports sales, **through Feb. 22**.

## Best bets for the week

**ENGLAND:** The London Outdoor Show in the Olympia claims that it's 30-percent bigger this year, with the newest in outdoor adventure sports and vacations.

Visit with one of the more than 100 exhibitors from Adventure Travel Magazine to Wilderness Medical Training, listen to a travel celebrity and stop in and try one of the "zones": The Sialactic Climbing Challenge, The Site Outdoor Workshop, Mountain Adventure, Coastal and River Adventures and Cycle Sports.

The show is open Friday noon to 9 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tickets cost 12 pounds for adults, 6 pounds for children. The Web site is **www.outdooradventureshow.co.uk**.

On Saturday, the London Blue Badge guides are giving 30 free guided walks and

gallery tours to celebrate International Tourist Day. The theme this year is "Blue," with some of the tours including "Blue Suede Shoes — Rock and Roll London," "Picasso's Blue Period and Beyond" (the Tate Museum), "Blueblooms, Clubs, Pops and Dandies" (Mayfair), "American London," and "In the Footsteps of Charles Dickens."

The tours are on a first-come, first-served basis with a group size of about 25. There are also two "do-it-yourself" tours, "Behind the Facades" and "Watery Secrets."

Show up at the Embankment tube station between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. for free route maps. For more details and a list of tours and their locations, go to **www.blue-badge-guides.com**. Click on "Tourist Guide Day," then "London — Public Tours."

— JAYNE TRAEENDLY

**ROTTERDAM:** City marathon, **April 10**.

### SCOTLAND

**www.visitscotland.com**  
GLASGOW: International comedy festival, **March 10-26**.  
EDINBURGH: Easter festival, **March 24-28**.  
HAWICK (Borders): Ravens festival, **March 27-28**. Historical festival.

### SPAIN

**www.tourspain.co.uk**  
VALENCIA: Las Fallas, **March 14-19**.  
THROUGHOUT the country: Holy Week, **March 20-27**.  
SEVILLE: Spring fair, **April 12-17**.

### SWITZERLAND

**www.switzerlandtourism.ch**  
GENEVA: International car show, **March 3-13**.

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BY JAYNE TRAEENDLY  
Stripes Travel researcher

### High on heli-skiing

The director of MWR, Joe Harris, in Wiesbaden, Germany, describes heli-skiing as "an absolutely exhilarating experience."

If you're a solid intermediate or advanced skier and would like to ski where there are no lifts, bars, other people or previously skied slopes, one of their heli-skiing weekends on Switzerland's Jungfrau may be the thrill you're looking for. The week ends are the 26-27 in February and March and one in October.

You go in groups of eight (one guide) or 16 (two guides). On the first day, you take the helicopter from the valley up 14,000 feet for a 20-mile run on fresh, unmarked snow. Then you're picked up to go to 13,500 feet on another slope for a 16-mile run into the valley. On the second day, you ski at one of the resorts.

The cost is \$475 per person, four to a room. The price includes lodging, transportation and ski tickets.

For details, contact Wiesbaden Outdoor Rec at DSN 337-5760 or civilian (+49) (0) 611/705-5760. Or contact Dexheim Outdoor Rec at DSN 334-5818 or civilian (+49) (0) 613/69-818.

**Russian roads**  
An add-on tour to St. Petersburg, Russia, for June 29 to July 4 has been arranged for a Baltic States Tour on June 20 to 28. Both legs are organized by the Meyer Travel Group.

On the Baltic portion, you visit the historical capital city of Tallinn, Estonia; Riga, Latvia; Runda Palace (one of the Russian czar's summer palaces); the capital city of Vilnius, Lithuania; and Trakai, Lithuania's former capital.

Cost is \$1,365 per person, double occupancy, and includes round-trip airfare from Frankfurt, Germany; breakfasts, eight nights' lodging; dinners on the itinerary; and transportation by private bus, half-day sight-seeing of the capital cities; tours of Roccia al Mare, Trakai and Rundale Palace; and tour guides.

If you elect to continue on to Russia, you take an overnight ferry to St. Petersburg. Some of the sites you visit are the Winter Palace, Peter and Paul Fortress, Battleship Aurora, Nevsky Prospect (shopping street), Hermitage Museum, St. Catherine's Palace, the ancient city of Novgorod, St. Sophia Church and the Yuryev monastery.

Cost is \$700 per person, double occupancy, and includes round-trip ferry, breakfasts, tours, four nights' accommodations and tour guides. Contact Michael Traendly at telephone (+49) (0) 634/514-838 or e-mail **mktrae@aol.com**. Or contact Katie Meyer at telephone (916) 786-3708 or e-mail **meyrer@juno.com**. The Web site is **www.meyertravelgroup.com**.

### Unique Home Stays

Unique Home Stays of Cornwall, England, wants you to know about its collection of private homes, including castles, cottages, priories, rectories, windmills, watermills, town houses, farm estates and coastal homes, available for vacation stays.

Prices start at about \$150 double occupancy (and go way up, depending on the venue). Many of the homes are historic, and some have been built for bluebloods or wealthy entrepreneurs. Pricing information adds that "helicopter landing sites may be available."

Contact Unique Home Stays at telephone (+44) (0) 1637 851942 or e-mail **enquiries@uniquehomestays.com**. The address is Lantern Cottage, Trebuddan; Newquay, Cornwall, England, TR8 4LP. The Web site is **www.uniquehomestays.com**.

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## AFTS Television Schedule

Updated sports listings are available on the first scoreboard page in the sports section or AFTS's Web site at <http://myinfo.dodmedia.mil>

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2005

	AFN-FAMILY	AFN-MOVIE	AFN-EUROPE	AFN-KOREA	AFN-NEWS	AFN-SPORTS	SPECTRUM	AFN-PACIFIC
9:00	Stanley	Movie "One Woman's Courage" (1994) Patty Duke, Margot Kidder: A star stalks the winners who belied against him.	Dr. Phil	Jeopardy!	Nightline	College Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Taped)	30-Minute Meals	Jeopardy!
9:30	Sagwa-Siamcat Cat		(16:46) Oprah Winfrey	Headline News	Navy/Marine Corps News		Low Carb & Lovin' It	Headline News
10:00	Arthur (E)		(3:36) Guiding Light	ESPNNews	Hardball With Chris Matthews		Design on a Dime	ESPNNews
10:30	Reading Rainbow (E)			Advisory Block			Style Star	ESPN's Pacific Report
11:30	Sagwa-Siamcat Cat	(10:48) Movie *** "Arrested and Old Lady" (1941) Cary Grant. Two elderly ladies plot perfection with loud voice.	(17) General Hospital	Yes and a Half Men	The O'Reilly Factor	SportsCenter	News Line	Yes and a Half Men
12:00	Dora the Explorer		Headline News	(25) Will & Grace			The King of Queens	(25) Will & Grace
12:30	The Wiggles		Judge Judy	Alas! Doppelgangster	60 Minutes	College Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Taped)	That '70s Show	Unstoppable Housewives "Come In, Stranger"
13:00	Bob the Builder	Movie *** "Thelma & Louise" (1991) Susan Sarandon. A near-aprily abrupt turns two friends into humiliated losers.	Today	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "Bloodlines" Rape victim.	Fox and Friends		Charmed "Coyote Piper"	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "Bloodlines" Rape victim.
14:00	Blue's Clues (Math)			Pacific Report	Fox and Friends	SportsCenter	Strong Medicine "Do No Harm"	Pacific Report
14:30	Barney & Friends (E)		Legend of Tarzan	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	American Morning	NBA Basketball Daily: Mavericks at Phoenix Sun. From Arizona Center in Minneapolis. (Live)	Any Day Now "It's Not About the Suffer" (Part 2 of 3)	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno
15:00	Funtastic Home Videos	(16) Movie *** "Shakedown" (1988) Peter Weller, Sam Elliott. A lawyer and a narcotics cop fight NYPD corruption.	Headline News	Late Show With David Letterman	Chin Live Today		Third Watch "History"	Late Show With David Letterman
15:30	Full House "From Night"		Headline News	NBA Inside Stuff			Law & Order "Return"	The Late Late Show With Craig Ferguson
16:00	Pokémon "A Friend in Deed"	Film/Fantasy "The Committed"	Destinations	Jeopardy!	Dennis Miller	SportsCenter	The Simpsons "Pole Morn"	Dennis Miller
16:30	Yu-Gi-Oh! "Burning the Past"		Headline News	AFN Evening News	Countdown With Keith Olsen	NBA Fastbreak	Everybody Loves Raymond	Countdown With Keith Olsen
17:00	Dr. Phil (E)		Headline News	Two and a Half Men	Access Hollywood	NASCAR Racing "Nascar Cup Series - Martinsville Race at Daytona, (Taped)	American Idol	Access Hollywood
17:30	The Wild Thornberrys		Headline News	(25) Will & Grace	Headline News		The Practice "Capitol Crimes"	Headline News
18:00	The Fairly OddParents	Short Movies	Destinations	Degrade Housewives "Come In, Stranger"	FOX News		The Practice "Capitol Crimes"	Headline News
18:30	Rugrats	Entertainment Tonight	AFN Evening News	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "Bloodlines" Rape victim.	60 Minutes		The Practice "Capitol Crimes"	Headline News
19:00	That's So Raven	Movie *** "Shakespeare in Love" (1998, Romance)	Two and a Half Men	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	Headline News		The Practice "Capitol Crimes"	Headline News
19:30	All That Music Group BEK	Joseph Fiennes, Gwyneth Paltrow. A lovely music helps break the playwright's writer's block.	Access Hollywood	Headline News	FOX News		The Practice "Capitol Crimes"	Headline News
20:00	It's Always "An Early Fall" (Part 2 of 2)		Headline News	The Hot List	Studio B With Shepard Smith	PGA Golf Nissan Open - First Round. From Riviera Country Club in Pacific Palisades, Calif. (Same-day Tape)	Friends "The One After I Do"	Headline News
21:00	Sabrina, the Teenage Witch	(17) Movie *** "When Trumpets Fade" (1980, Drama) Robert Redford, Faye Dunaway. A wealthy man's wife helps him escape a disaster in prison.	Headline News	Good Morning America	Your World With Neil Cavuto		Friends "The One After I Do"	Good Morning America
21:30	Sabrina, the Teenage Witch		Headline News	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	Lester Holt Live		Daily Show-Jon Stewart	Headline News
22:00	Home Improvement	Movie *** "Air Force One" (1997) Harrison Ford.	Late Show-Letterman				Blind Date	
22:30	That's So Raven							
23:00	The Cosby Show "Mr. Ques"							
23:30	Home Improvement							

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2005

00:00	Aaahh! Real Monsters	(11:00) Movie *** "Air Force One" (1997) Harrison Ford.	Late Show-Letterman	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	Play With Me Sesame
00:30	Rockin' Power		Access Hollywood	Beer in the Big Blue House	NBC Nightly News		American Idol	Wheel in the Big Blue House
1:00	The Early OddParents	(12) Movie *** "Alphaville: The Sequel" (1982) Robert Davis. A futuristic plot must prevent a disaster in prison.	College Basketball Louisville at Marquette. (Live)	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)	ABC World News Tonight	Pardon the Interruption		Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)
2:00	That's So Raven		Headline News	Wheel of Fortune	CBS Evening News	NBA Action		Wheel of Fortune
2:30	All That Music Group BEK	Movie *** "Shakespeare in Love" (1998, Romance)	Headline News	Dr. Phil	NewsHour Weekend With Jim Lehrer	(15) NBA Basketball: Cleveland Cavaliers at Minnesota Timberwolves. From the Target Center in Minneapolis. (Live)	The Carol Burnett Show: Let's Burn Up the Lights	Dr. Phil
3:00	It's Always "An Early Fall" (Part 2 of 2)		Headline News	Oprah Winfrey	Harmony & Colmes		National Geographic Explorer	Oprah Winfrey
4:00	Sabrina, the Teenage Witch	Joseph Fiennes, Gwyneth Paltrow. A lovely music helps break the playwright's writer's block.	Headline News	NBC Nightly News	Headline News		Friends (Part 1 of 2)	NBC Nightly News
4:30	Sabrina, the Teenage Witch		Headline News	Judge Judy	Nightly Business Report	NBA Basketball Daily: Mavericks at Phoenix Sun. From Arizona Center in Minneapolis. (Live)	Friends (Part 2 of 2)	Judge Judy
5:00	Sesame Street (E)		Headline News	Access Hollywood	Lou Dobbs Tonight		Breathin' Fresh Togo	Access Hollywood
5:30	Sesame Street (E)		Headline News	(13) General Hospital	Larry King Live		Caribbean Workout	(23) Guiding Light
6:00	Barney & Friends (E)		Headline News	Play With Me Sesame	Larry King Live	Inside the NBA	Body Shaping	(13) General Hospital
6:30	Blue's Clues	Film/Fantasy "The Committed"	Play With Me Sesame	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)	NewsNight With Aaron Brown		Typical Mary Ellen	Teacher's Pet (E)
7:00	Dragon Tales (E)		Play With Me Sesame	Ozzy & D'Zz "Riders"	BET Nightly News	SportsCenter	What's New Scooby-Doo? "Ozzy & D'Zz" Riders	Teacher's Pet (E)
7:30	Bob the Builder	Entertainment Tonight	Headline News	CodeName: Kids Next Door	Twins Smiley		Jeopardy!	Headline News
8:00	The Wiggles	Movie *** "The Story Lady" (1991, Drama) Jessica Tandy. A woman's love affair with a child's show is a hit.	Headline News	Jeopardy!	Headline News	College Basketball Duke at Virginia Tech. (Taped)	Easy Entertaining-Chiarolo	Headline News
8:30	Dora the Explorer		Headline News	Advisory Block	Hardball With Chris Matthews		The Look for Less	ESPN's Pacific Report
9:00	Stanley	(10:48) Movie *** "Batman & Robin" (1997) Arnold Schwarzenegger. The dynamic duo returns to take on an evil villain.	(17) General Hospital	The O.C. "The New Kids on the Block"	The O'Reilly Factor	SportsCenter	ET News Line	The O.C. "The New Kids on the Block"
9:30	Sagwa-Siamcat Cat		Headline News	Survivor: Palau	PrimeTime Thursday	College Basketball UCLA at California. (Taped)	The King of Queens	Survivor
10:00	Arthur (E)		Headline News	Today	The Apprentice		That '70s Show	Survivor
10:30	Reading Rainbow (E)		Headline News	Today	The Apprentice		Charmed "We All Scream for Ice Cream"	The Apprentice
11:00	Sagwa-Siamcat Cat		Headline News	Pacific Report	Fox and Friends	SportsCenter	Strong Medicine "Miracle Cure"	Pacific Report
11:30	Stanley Stanley loses a race.		Headline News	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	American Morning	College Basketball Louisville at Marquette. (Taped)	Any Day Now "Elephants in the Rain"	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno
12:00	Dora the Explorer		Headline News	Late Show With David Letterman	Chin Live Today		Third Watch "A Hero's Rest"	Late Show With David Letterman
12:30	The Wiggles		Headline News	The Late Late Show With Craig Ferguson			Law and Order "Burn Baby Burn"	The Late Late Show With Craig Ferguson
13:00	Bob the Builder	Movie *** "Steel Magnolias" (1989) Sally Field. Six on-walled women gather at a Louisiana beauty parlor.	Headline News	Dennis Miller	FOX News		The Simpsons	Dennis Miller
14:00	Blue's Clues		Headline News	Countdown With Keith Olsen	FOX News		Everybody Loves Raymond	Countdown With Keith Olsen
14:30	Barney & Friends (E)		Headline News	Access Hollywood	FOX News		JAG "A Tangled Web" (Part 2 of 2)	Access Hollywood
15:00	Funtastic Home Videos	(38) Movie *** "Crocodile Dundee" (1986) Paul Hogan. An Australian hunting legend roams the wilds of Marathallah.	Headline News	Survivor	FOX News		Boston Public "Chapter Forty-Six"	Headline News
15:30	Full House "From Night"		Headline News	The Apprentice	Good Morning America	Studio B With Shepard Smith	Friends "Rulers of the Deep"	Good Morning America
16:00	Pokémon		Headline News	Headline News			Seinfeld "The Scillian"	Headline News
16:30	Yu-Gi-Oh! "Burning the Past"		Headline News	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	Oobi	Your World With Neil Cavuto	Daily Show-Jon Stewart	Oobi
17:00	Dr. Phil (E)		Headline News	Late Show-Letterman	Clifford's Puppy Days (E)	Lester Holt Live	Blind Date	Clifford's Puppy Days (E)
17:30	The Wild Thornberrys		Headline News					
18:00	The Fairly OddParents		Headline News					
18:30	Rugrats		Headline News					
19:00	All Grown Up		Headline News					
19:30	Save the Barbarian		Headline News					
20:00	Danny Phantom		Headline News					
20:30	Drake & Josh		Headline News					
21:00	That's So Raven		Headline News					
21:30	Phil of the Future		Headline News					
22:00	Switched		Headline News					
22:30	Radio Free Roscoe		Headline News					
23:00	The Cosby Show "Mr. Ques"		Headline News					
23:30	Home Improvement		Headline News					

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## FACES

## Romance is the new action

Will Smith found box office stardom in big-budget thrillers; now he's rediscovering comedy in 'Hitch'

BY ANNETTE JOHN-HALL  
Knight Rider Newspapers

**H**is fought off aliens, drug lords, the CIA and — a! — robots. Heck, he even brought George Foreman to his knees.

Now, in "Hitch," his first romantic comedy since he burst onto the small screen as the Fresh Prince, Will Smith finds himself in the battle of the sexes.

Smith, the quintessential ladies' man, plays "date doctor" Alex Hitchens, creating situations to help ordinary guys snag the girls of their dreams.

"No matter what, no matter when, no matter who, any man has a chance to sweep any woman off her feet," Hitch observes. "He just needs the right broom."

A smooth operator, funny and debonair, Smith demonstrates in "Hitch," which debuted at No. 1 last week, that he's just as proficient at wooing the sultry Sara (Eva Mendes) as he is at beating back three-headed monsters. Which doesn't exactly come as a revelation. Even during his days as the fun-loving, slightly goofy Fresh Prince, Smith had "leading man" written all over him. But it has taken Smith, 36, more than a decade to make his way back to romance.

"I'm much more at home in the romantic comedy genre," he says by telephone from Honolulu, where he was promoting the film.

Smith played the lovable, wayward nephew from West Philly who brought a grounded sensibility to his haughty relatives on "The Fresh Prince of Bel Air" for six years on TV. After the show went off the air, Smith ruled the box office with blockbusters and their follow-ups, such as "Bad Boys," "Men in Black," "Independence Day," "Enemy of the State" and "I, Robot." The films made him a superstar, but apart from his Oscar-nominated turn in 2001's "Ali" (in which he decked Charles Stallone, playing Foreman), he was in danger of being typecast.

And it was by his own design.

"Those kinds of movies were the ones that made me want to make movies in the first place," Smith says.

"When I was growing up, 'Star Wars' was the first film I appreciated. Then came 'Die Hard,' 'Lethal Weapon,' '48 Hours.' Now, my tastes have changed. ... Today, the film I can't stop watching is 'Casablanca.'"

Part of the reason is professional practicality: "I'm 36. I can't make those [action] films much past 40." The other reason has to do with growing up.

"I have to relinquish childhood tastes," he says. "The Cary Grant comedies, movies like 'Forrest Gump' or 'Philadelphia' — those are more to my adult tastes."

Smith says he was intrigued by the idea of a "date doctor," someone whose job it is to fix it and let love flow, "because relationship counseling has been his role in real life."

"I AM Hitch with all my friends and family," he says. Smith wasn't a ladies' man back in high school, but says he was the confidant that girls — and guys, for that matter — approached to solve their problems of love.

"I study ladies," he says. "Most of my friends don't want to spend their weekends reading 'The Secret Life of Bees,' but I like to see what women are thinking." So when producer James Lassiter, Smith's childhood pal who runs Overbrook Entertainment, began to develop the idea for "Hitch," Smith pushed for a script. He brought in Andy Tennant ("Sweet Home Alabama") to direct and make his alpha-male vision clear.

"Will wanted to make a comedy with romance and not a romantic comedy," says Tennant, by phone from Los Angeles. "A romantic comedy is usually with a woman protagonist, who is more accessible to emotions. You put a guy in a movie about romance, you've got to make them laugh before they feel anything. We embarked on a path to make it funny."

Married seven years, Smith and wife Jada Pinkett Smith have one of Hollywood's model marriages. The couple are parents of Jaden, 6, Willow, 4, and Trey, 12, Smith's son from his first marriage. Instead of indulging in real-life drama over their merged family, the Smiths created and produced a comedy series for UPN, "All of Us," loosely based on their experience.

"Jada and I don't just love our relationship, we study it," Smith says, adding that the key is "blatant honesty. ... Jada knows who I am and I know who I am."

Which is a good thing, considering his sizzling on-screen chemistry with the beautiful Mendes ("Training Day," "Out of Time").

"It's simple. Eva Mendes is fine, a beautiful young actress. Am I going to try to sleep with her or not? No. If I answer the question truthfully, we can move along. The complexity only comes in with a lie."

Spokey as only a true love doctor can.



ABACA PRESS/KRT

Will Smith, with wife Jada Pinkett Smith, daughter Willow Camille Reign and son Jaden Christopher Syre, arrive at the "Shark Tale" premiere in 2004 in New York City. The animated "Shark Tale" was recently released on DVD, about the same time Smith's new movie, "Hitch," premiered in the States.

## Mellencamp announces U.S. tour

John Mellencamp will bring his "Words & Music" to cities across the United States this spring on his first headlining tour in three years.

Sixteen stops have been announced for the first leg of the tour, which opens in Savannah, Ga., on March 23 and ends April 17 in Louisville, Ky. The tour is dubbed the "Words & Music Tour" after Mellencamp's recently released double CD greatest hits collection.

"Jack and Diane," "R.O.C.K. in the U.S.A." and "Small Town" are among the songs Mellencamp will perform. "Going out and playing is a great way for me to keep these songs alive; it's what I've done for my whole professional life," the 53-year-old rocker said Monday in Birmingham, Ind.

Folk star Donovon, known for hits such as "Sunshine Superman" and "Hurdy Gurdy Man," will be a special guest.

## 21st century's Janis Joplin sought

If Joss Stone isn't busy, here's something she could probably win.



Mellencamp

Janis Joplin's estate has announced "Search for the Pearl," a reality TV talent search to find the next Joplin. The 17-year-old Stone sang "Cry Baby," then teamed with Melissa Etheridge's vocals and driving guitar on "Piece of My Heart" in a gritty tribute to Joplin during Sunday's Grammy Awards show.

According to a statement, vocalists across the country will audition to re-create the vocal stylings of Joplin, who died in 1970 at age 27. Five finalists will be flown to San Francisco to perform for a panel of judges. The selected will then headline a world concert tour, performing with bands that played with Joplin, including Big Brother & The Holding Company, the Kozmic Blues Band and Full Tilt Boogie Band. The tour will culminate in a star-studded tribute concert in 2006.

No word on what network might air the show.

## Locke in love, plans marriage

"American Idol" runner-up Kimberley Locke is a winner when it comes to love.

Locke, who competed in season two of the TV talent contest, said she is engaged to marry her high school sweetheart, Don Campbell.

Locke had a hit single, "8th Wonder," and is working on a new album, expected by the end of the year.

## Mattel puts Lohan in plastic

Lindsay Lohan, the red-haired "Mean Girls" star, is getting the Barbie treatment with a new doll made in her likeness.

The doll is dressed in full red-carpet splendor, wearing a beige dress and a faux fur-trimmed coat.

The Mattel dolls come complete with a director's chair and her very own velvet rope, the company announced recently. Part of the toy maker's "My Movie Day" and "Freaky Friday" line, the Lohan doll is due out in June and will retail for about \$30.

Lohan, 18, also starred in "Freaky Friday" and recently finished shooting "Herbie: Fully Loaded," an update of the Disney story about a plucky Volkswagen Beetle.



Lohan doll

Stories and photos from wire services





## OPINION

## Shanley verdict gives other victims courage

BY DAVID CLOHESSY

Thirty minutes after a Massachusetts jury found ex-priest Paul Shanley guilty of molesting a boy, I got a call from a man who was also abused by a priest. "I've never told anyone except my wife," he said. "That verdict gave me the strength to finally tell someone else."

To me, that proved that the Shanley verdict was indeed a victory for us all. Anything that makes it even slightly less difficult for wounded abuse survivors to come forward is progress.

Because of archaic and rigid statutes of limitations, very few abusive clergy ever see the inside of a courtroom. Because of timid prosecutors and excessive deference, virtually no complicit church officials have.

So the mere fact that Shanley faced criminal charges at all was, in itself, at least a partial victory for the tens of thousands of clergy molestation victims, many of whom tolerate to suffer in shame, silence and self-blame even now.

The fact that a jury unanimously declared Shanley guilty is even more significant. Not too many years ago, it was unthinkable that average citizens could convict a cleric of such horrific crimes.

Most clergy molestation victims disclose their private horror to no one but a spouse, sibling or dear friend.

Most never pursue criminal or civil charges. Most just try to muddle along, cope with their pain, and try to forget

(often using addictions such as booze, drugs, sex or work). And those who do speak up most often simply want some acknowledgment that yes, a terrible crime (usually avoidable, had church authorities acted sooner) was committed against them.

It's rare to get that kind of admission from a bishop, or even a simple "I'm sorry for what you endured and for how you're still suffering." So some of us take legal action. For many, that can ultimately be very healing.

This is not to minimize the public safety benefit of putting Shanley behind bars or on probation. Despite his age, he must be considered a threat. The mere passage of time doesn't magically cure a compulsive predator. But to the wounded and often fragile psyches of people like me, once trusting but severely violated Catholics, the Shanley verdict is a ray of hope.

It reminds us that when victims stay silent, nothing changes, but when victims come forward, sometimes justice is possible and more pain is prevented.

It reminds us that when it's time to report our victimization, it's better to go to our flawed but time-tested, open, impartial American justice system, rather than a new, untested, secretive and biased internal church process.

On the down side, Shanley's depravity has deflected attention away from even greater depravity: the inexcusable inaction by church officials who knew about or suspected sex crimes but did nothing to pro-



**Defrocked priest Paul Shanley listens to his sentence in Middlesex Superior Court in Cambridge, Mass., after being convicted of raping and fondling a boy at his Roman Catholic church during the 1980s. David Clohessy, national director of the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests, says that not too many years ago it was unthinkable that average citizens could convict a cleric of such horrific crimes.**

tect innocent kids and vulnerable adults. That's where our attention should be focused.

Shanley will never be a priest again. But four or five of the clerics who shielded him and rebuffed his victims still are. In fact, they're now bishops. There will be no real "victory" for men and women who have

been raped by priests and ignored by bishops until these men — top church officials — are no longer in positions where they can put vulnerable parishioners at risk.

David Clohessy of St. Louis is national director of the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests. He and his brothers say they were molested by a mid-Missouri priest in the 1960s and '70s. He wrote this for the Duluth (Minn.) News Tribune.

## Little comfort in conviction that wasn't warranted

BY BRUNN WASHINGTON

Duluth (Minn.) News Tribune

When Paul Shanley was escorted out of the Cambridge, Mass., courtroom Tuesday after his sentencing for the sexual rapes of a Sunday school student in the 1980s, he was being marched toward his death. Not that there's capital punishment in Massachusetts, but the 12-to-15-year prison term the 74-year-old defrocked priest got is the de facto equal to life.

If he's lucky, I have zero faith in the corrections system that allowed the prison murder of fellow molester ex-priest John Geoghan keeping the even more notorious Shanley alive.

And who'd miss him? After last week's verdict, untold others prevented by statute of limitations from ever telling a courtroom their tales of abuse at the hands of the charismatic priest shed tears of relief. For three years, I have been indelibly touched by their horrific stories and can only grasp at a hint of their pain. But if Shanley's conviction is viewed by them as a victory, it's a hollow one.

Our legal system hinges on reasonable doubt, and it abounds in this case. Rather than in the courtroom, Shanley's real trial was held in a hotel ballroom three years earlier, where a lawyer playing judge, jury and executioner wowed a throng of journalists and live TV audience with a PowerPoint presentation of voluminous church files to deem the priest as the devil incarnate.

He was a founder of the North American Man-Boy Love Association, the lawyer asserted — except the papers actually showed no evidence of that. His appetite for little boys was so uncontrollable his "pathology [was] beyond repair," the

*I have zero faith in the corrections system that allowed the prison murder of fellow molester ex-priest John Geoghan keeping the even more notorious [Paul] Shanley alive.*

lawyer quoted a pre-eminent psychiatrist — except the doctor never met Shanley and was talking about his laziness, not abuse.

He was the subject of countless complaints by parishioners for statements about adults having sex with children — except they were complaining more vociferously about his preaching tolerance for gays.

Don't think that dog-and-pony show had any impact on the jury three years later. Type "NAMBLA" and "Shanley" in Google and see what you get.

Shanley indeed did horrible acts, and his mantra "I never had sex with a child,

I never forced anyone into sex" — is rendered ridiculous with his vague definition of "child" excluding those between puberty and the age of consent.

Those deeds remained unpunished when his criminal accuser — who'd already received \$500,000 in a civil case handled by the ringmaster attorney — managed to tearfully navigate a sea of reasonable doubt.

That includes whether the accuser spoke with his lawyer before recovering his memory of abuse, how an agreement with the law firm in Boston could be signed and dated the same day the accuser's memory returned in Colorado, and

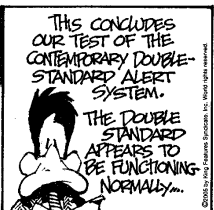
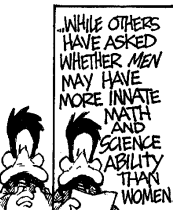
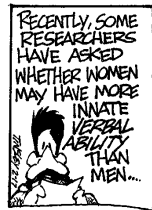
why the accuser's best pal with whom his memories were intertwined — and whose sworn statement had morphed from "I repressed the abuse" to "I always remembered it but was afraid" back to "I repressed it" — dropped out of the criminal case after receiving more than \$1.4 million in a civil settlement. Yes, victims frequently forget details of long-ago trauma, but we're talking about depositions taken by a blue-chip lawyer three years ago, not 20.

Maybe Shanley did it. And whether he did or not, his life or death behind bars for crimes for which there is a degree of doubt engenders about as much sympathy as Al Capone's trip upriver for tax evasion. But for all the pain and lies and betrayal victims have endured, those seeking healing will find little solace in a questionable verdict and another dead ex-priest.

Robin Washington is editorial-page editor of the News Tribune and covered the Shanley case for two years for the Boston Herald.

## Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



# Horoscope

Venus and Jupiter affect us with a heavenly flirtation. What a pleasant waste of time it is to tease and carry on with someone charismatic — or perhaps it's more productive than appearances suggest.

There's value in the confidence boost that comes with sophisticated social contact. Playfulness really is a fine art under the Gemini moon.

## TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(February 17) This year is full of memorable occasions, thrilling twists in your life's plot and adventures just begging you to take them. So be daring, especially when unusual opportunities present themselves in the next three months. Couples exchange new promises in June. You're applauded for career success in July. Love signs are Scorpio and Cancer. Your lucky numbers are: 50, 8, 1, 24 and 35.

## ARIES (March 21-April 19)

Personal ambitions are highlighted, set at least one goal that is entirely to satisfy yourself. Get the to-do list over with — you need a block of uninterrupted time to let your mind surf the collective unconscious.

## TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

There's a foggy quality to your experiences now, which gives you a detached, almost amused air. A line of Edgar Allan Poe comes to mind: "All that we see or seem is but a dream within a dream."

## GEMINI (May 21-June 21)

You're moving in a highly competitive environment. When others appear to be resting, they're merely waiting to pounce at the first opportunity they see. Be more strategic than the next guy.

## CANCER (June 22-July 22)

Answers are simple, especially if the question has to do with your career. Does your work encompass the things you actually love doing? If not, there's an opportunity to remedy the situation.

## LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

You won't be the only one to benefit from

your own success. Once you know that others want you to succeed, you have a license to go for it with all your passion. Use all available channels to promote yourself.

## VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

The pressure is off for the time being. Take the opportunity to enroll in a spinning class, learn Pilates or go for a run. When you get out in a healthy way, you meet new, sexy and exciting friends.

## LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

There's something comforting about a familiar mess. But you have too much to gain by clearing the clutter. Make a list of what to keep and what to throw out — you don't have to do it for real just yet if it's too hard.

## SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)

Idle notions are the initial spark of luck. Making your mark is a matter of sheer concentration. Start by designating more time for planning and promoting. An artistic goal can be accomplished if you keep the faith.

## SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

You'll have to crack down on personal discipline to win the prize. Strengthen all that's going well in your world. Write things down. Double-check. Plan thoroughly, and most of all, don't be quick to blame!

## CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

You're on the go as usual, and the less baggage you have to carry, the better. By working in energetic spurts, you accomplish much. Take advantage of downtime in between by resting up.

## AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Matters related to home and family may feel unsettled. It's best not to think about what you don't have and start using what you do. A romantic relationship is right where it should be.

## PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

Before the weekend starts, you'll have set love on a better course. Be sure to act on your romantic ideas, or they never become a part of your life. Shared activities will be the source of your greatest memories.

Creators Syndicate

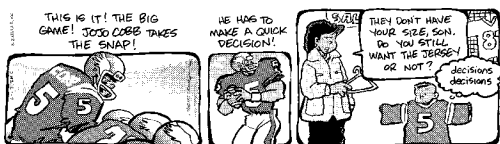
## Holiday Mathis



## Calvin and Hobbes



## Jump Start



## Zits



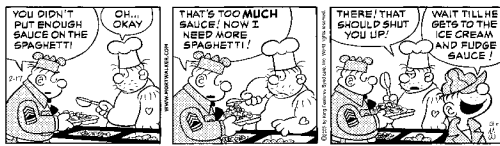
## Cathy



## Hi and Lois



## Beetle Bailey



## Red Rover



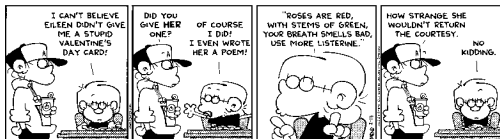
## Better or Worse



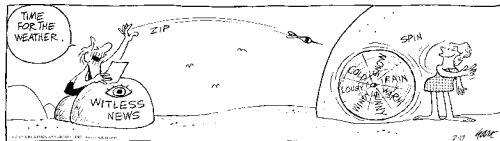
## Peanuts



Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



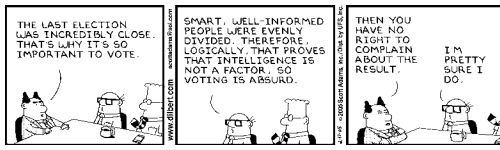
Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



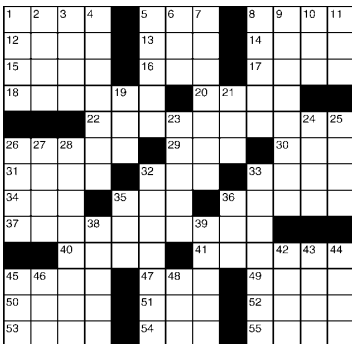
Hagar



Garfield



## Eugene Sheffer Crossword



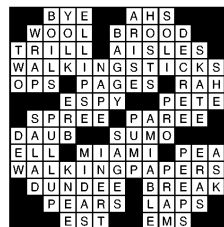
## Across

- 1 Stylish  
5 Sternward  
8 Skewer  
12 Frau's mate  
13 Fresh  
14 Mexican money  
15 Largest of the seven  
16 Turn right  
17 Multitude  
18 Dennis the Menace, e.g.  
20 Unprepared  
22 Joe's first line, often  
26 Squamous  
29 Monterey monarch  
30 "There's -- in team"  
31 Actress Skye  
32 1-Across, to Austin Powers  
33 Shakespeare sobriquet  
34 Torched  
35 Spotted  
36 Retail division  
37 Ornamental trinket  
40 Huron's neighbor  
41 Lone Ranger's steed  
45 -- Hari  
47 Make like a frog  
49 Assistant  
50 Leading man?  
51 Idolater's emotion  
52 Nullify

## Down

- 3 "— and Circumstance"  
4 Longing  
5 Saxophone range  
1 Burn somewhat  
2 "For — jolly good ..."  
3 Rainbow  
4 Fireplace noise  
5 -- Saxon  
6 Retainer  
7 Made slight adjustments  
8 Juan Carlos' kingdom  
9 Private  
10 Doctrine  
11 "— Story"  
19 Whatever amount  
21 Firmament  
23 Dentist's concern  
24 Heart of the matter  
25 "Bye Bye Birdie" song  
26 Worms make it  
27 Invent  
28 Civil War battle site  
32 Avail oneself profitably  
33 Nut-and-honey pastry  
35 Something to do at 39-Down  
36 -- fi  
38 Colorado woe  
39 Colorado resort  
42 String instrument  
43 Tend texts  
44 Start over  
45 Chart  
46 Commotion  
48 Have bills

## Answer to Previous Puzzle



2-17

## CRYPTOQUIP

BE ILM'WO LMY CLLGBAV  
ELW TCMYWOZ, YDOA  
B WOSGLA ILM'WO LA J

ZSJTOAVOW DMAY  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I AM CERTAINLY THE MOST TANNED PERSON HERE TODAY. ALL OTHERS PALE IN COMPARISON.  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals R

# Fashion creates 'crack addicts'

**Dear Abby:** I have a 22-year-old daughter who insists on wearing low-rise jeans. I have seen half her rear end at least five times, and I'm embarrassed for her. I have had to tell her every time. When I do, she acts mad at me for saying something. Last October, she squatted down to look in a box at a yard sale, and the poor elderly gentleman who was trying to assist her had quite a view. It was awful! I wish I had a camera so I could take a picture and blow it up to an 8-by-10 so she could see what everyone else is seeing.

This couldn't be the style — to show off so much skin — is it? Please, Abby, print this. Maybe my daughter will see your response. She says she doesn't care. How can that be?

— **Bumped-Out Mother, Brightwood, Va.**  
*Dear Mother: Your daughter is a willing slave to fashion. It seems every generation has its own*

*erogenous zone on display. Remember the lyric, "In olden days, a glimpse of stocking was looked on as something shocking. Now Heaven knows, anything goes!" In the '60s it was the thigh. In the '90s it was exposed navels adorned with gold rings. Today the fashion industry appears to have turned us into a nation of "crack addicts."*

*The trend will end only when God grants us the gift to see ourselves as others see us — in other words, "hind-sight."*

**Dear Abby:** I have just had an upsetting experience. I walked into my local public library this morning to find a man angrily confronting one of the librarians. I don't understand, but there was no way to miss what he was saying because he was shouting.

Apparently, when it was his turn to be helped, he was on his cell phone and refused to hang

up. She informed him that she would help the next person in line, and then help him when he had finished his conversation. Part of his problem, according to him, was that he was so involved with his cell phone call that he hadn't heard what the librarian said! I don't see why she and the other people in line should have been expected to wait for him to finish his call, and I certainly don't understand why he felt entitled to intimidate this woman. Isn't it time for some rules of conduct for cell phone use?

— **Courtesy, Please, in Springfield, Mo.**

*Dear C.P.: It should not be necessary to have written rules of conduct for cell phone users. Common sense and basic good manners should apply. The librarian was within her rights to take the next person in line if the one in front of her was preoccupied.*

*Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69460, Los Angeles, CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.uepress.com/dearabby> Universal Press Syndicate*

## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

UNGTGS

GEWGH

DROAFE

LEMOTE

A: \_\_\_\_\_

www.jumble.com

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

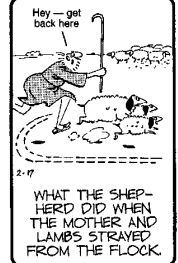
(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: ARDOR MIRTH JOCKEY RANGING

Answer: When the knight made a snide remark, it resulted in a — "CRACK" IN HIS ARMOR

## THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argiron



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: ARDOR MIRTH JOCKEY RANGING

Answer: When the knight made a snide remark, it resulted in a — "CRACK" IN HIS ARMOR

# Honoring Martin Luther King Jr.

**Dear Annie:** In 1963, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. stood in front of tens of thousands of Americans of all races and colors and shared his dream. In honor of Dr. King, a group of dedicated Americans is building the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. National Memorial in Washington, D.C. This four-acre memorial will be situated on the Mall between our national memorials for Presidents Jefferson and Lincoln.

It will stand for Dr. King's ideals — peace, equality and freedom.

The project has raised over \$33 million, thanks to organizations such as General Motors, Tommy Hilf, the Ford Foundation, Fannie Mae, Aflac, Bell South, The Marriott Foundation, AOL-Time Warner, and individuals such as hip-hop star Nelly. We need to raise another \$33 million to break ground by the end of this year.

**Annie's Mailbox**  
 Dr. King spoke of "the fierce urgency of now." Here at the foundation, we feel that urgency as well, and ask for your help. Please ask your readers to visit [www.buildthe-dream.org](http://www.buildthe-dream.org) and give whatever they can. Every donation will help make this dream a reality.

— **Harry E. Johnson Sr., Wash., D.C.**

*Dear Harry Johnson: Thank you for giving us the opportunity to mention this project to our readers. Those who are interested should check your Web site or write to the Martin Luther King Jr. National Memorial Project Foundation Inc., Department 211, Washington, D.C. 20055.*

**Dear Annie:** My daughter is getting married soon, and I've always dreamed of walking my little girl down the aisle. However, my former wife says she

wants to walk our daughter down the aisle with me.

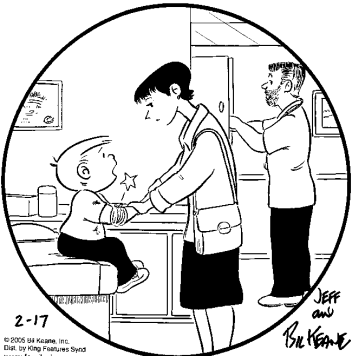
I do not want to appear selfish, but is this a new trend? My ex-wife left our family to pursue another guy when my daughter was a teenager, and I am not inclined to accommodate her. Is there a compromise?

— **Heavyhearted in Michigan**  
*Dear Michigan: Perhaps your ex-wife can walk her halfway while you walk her the rest of the way, or your daughter may opt to walk by herself, but this really is not your decision. Ask your daughter what SHE would like, and then whatever she chooses, please acquiesce. This day is not about your dreams, it's about hers, and one of them, undoubtedly, is that her parents get along in her wedding.*

*Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to [anniesmailbox@comcast.net](mailto:anniesmailbox@comcast.net), or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.*

Creators Syndicate

## Family Circus



2-17

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**"Why do I have to get stitches? Grandma said, 'Time heals all wounds.'"**

## GRAFFITI

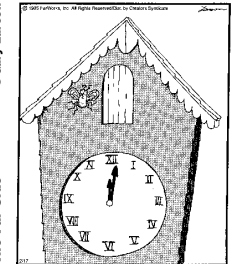
What some people don't know about cooking would fill a stomach pump

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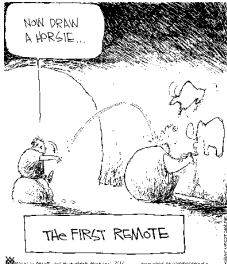


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The Far Side



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# Six-time champion commits to race in Tour de France

BY JOHN LEICESTER

The Associated Press

PARIS — Lance Armstrong will be back in the saddle in this year's Tour de France, chasing title No. 7.

The Tour's only six-time winner finally put an end to questions about his plans for 2005, announcing Wednesday on his Discovery Channel team's Web site that he'll try to extend his record streak of victories in cycling's most prestigious event.

"I am grateful for the opportunity that Discovery Communications has given the team and look forward to achieving my goal of a seventh Tour de France," Armstrong said, according to the team's site.

Until Wednesday, the Texan had left open the possibility that he wouldn't compete in this year's Tour. As recently as last month, Armstrong said: "I'll definitely be in France this summer. It just might not be on the bike."

He has said he's ready to pursue other challenges in racing and wants to try to win other big races. Still, he has dedicated most of his cycling life to the Tour, leaving little room for such classic

races as the Spanish Vuelta, the Paris-Roubaix or Fleche Wallone, which he won in 1996 shortly before being diagnosed with testicular cancer.

His sixth Tour crown last year elevated Armstrong above four five-time champions: Jacques Anquetin, Eddy Merckx, Bernard Hinault and Miguel Indurain.

The team Web site said Armstrong will start his 2005 season with the Paris-Nice stage race in March. He will then compete in the Tour of Flanders on April 3, before returning to the United States to defend his title in the Tour de Georgia later that month.

Armstrong told the Web site that he and Johan Bruyneel, his friend and team manager, "will evaluate my fitness later this spring and possibly add some races to the calendar."

"I am excited to get back on the bike and start racing," Armstrong said, "although my condition is far from perfect."

Other races probably won't give much weight to that last bit.

All while the Texan will be nearly 34 when the Tour begins July 2 — too old, some might think, to win the three-week cycling marathon yet again — there

were plenty of doubters last year, too. And yet Armstrong managed to defeat younger competitors with arguably his most dominant Tour de France performance ever.

"It's good that he is there. The best should be at the Tour," said Jan Ullrich, the 1997 Tour champion and five-time runner-up who is one of Armstrong's biggest rivals.

Andreas Kloden, last year's runner-up, said: "I always said he would ride. I am glad he's there."

Only time will tell whether Armstrong can get as fired up about winning a seventh Tour as he did to clinch record No. 6. But he already has said that if he did come back, he would aim for nothing but victory. He says he loves the classic race too much to treat it with anything less than the respect it deserves.

And Armstrong showed last year that in the saddle, he can shut out all manner of distractions — from a court battle over a book that implied he used drugs to all the attention focused on his girlfriend, singer Sheryl Crow — to focus on winning.

This year's Tour de France route passes through Germany



Lance Armstrong, who has won more titles in the Tour de France than anyone, was uncertain for several months about entering this year's race.

and features 21 stages over 2,222 miles from July 2-24.

The mountaintop finishes are less intense and the time trials shorter this year. Both are disciplines in which Armstrong excelled in the past, so the changes might mean he will have fewer opportunities to take huge chunks of time from his rivals.

But some initially thought that

the 2004 route also might trip up the champion. Instead, it was his liking.

Armstrong's winning margin over Kloden — 6 minutes, 19 seconds — was not his biggest. But his five solo stage wins and a team time trial victory with his squad made it arguably Armstrong's best Tour.

Can seven wins top that?

# Bills will cut Bledsoe, hand starter's job to Losman

The Associated Press

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. — The Buffalo Bills on Wednesday said they will release Drew Bledsoe, cutting loose a quarterback unwilling to give up his starting job despite sagging numbers.

The Bills will waive the 12-year veteran on Feb. 22, the first day NFL teams are allowed to officially release players, head coach Mike Mularkey said.

"Our starting quarterback next year will be J.P. Losman," Mularkey said. "We had a good year last year. It was not a super year. You're constantly trying to grow. With that comes change. It was a tough decision just out of respect for Drew and J.P."

"It's a sad day for me," Bledsoe said during an afternoon conference call. "I came to Buffalo with the intention of being a part of building an organization, winning a world championship in Buffalo. Didn't get

## NFL briefs

it accomplished. Now, I won't have a chance to."

Bledsoe said he was shocked about the decision to turn him loose.

"Do I think this is fair? No, I don't think it's fair," he said. "But I'm also aware that that's how it works, and I understand that. When I had the conversation with Mike [Mularkey] and first found out the direction they were going to go with J.P., I was beside myself."

"I completely disagree and can't understand their point of view."

Team President Tom Donohoe said he wouldn't lay blame for the team's offensive woes on Bledsoe.

"I think when Drew came here, we were in a big black hole with this football team," Donohoe said. "And he certainly helped us get out of that. He brought respectability back to the Bills and we owe him a debt of gratitude."

Donohoe said the Bills talked to some teams about a trade but "at this particular time there was not enough interest" in a swap.

The Bills will hand the offense to quarterback Josh Ledford, Buffalo's second of two first-round draft picks last year. Selected 22nd overall out of Tulane, Ledford made four mop-up appearances after missing the first half of last season with a broken leg.

## Bengals put franchise tag on RB Johnson

CINCINNATI — The Bengals used their franchise tag Tuesday on running back Rudi Johnson, who set a Cincinnati rushing record last season.

By using the tag on Johnson, the Bengals can keep him for \$6.3 million next season.

Johnson's agent, Peter Schaffer, didn't return a phone message seeking comment. During negotiations, Schaffer indicated that Johnson might sit out the season rather than play under the franchise tag.

## Saints to make Howard franchise player

NEW ORLEANS — The New Orleans Saints are expected to designate defensive end Darren Howard as their franchise player for the second straight season.

The move would require the Saints to pay Howard a \$7.8 million base salary in 2005 — a 20 percent increase from 2004. The club has until Feb. 22 to make an official designation.

Under terms of the franchise designation, Howard may negotiate with other teams, but the Saints can match any offer he receives.

## Arbiter's ruling upheld in Williams case

MIAMI — An arbitration ruling that ordered Ricky Williams to repay the Miami Dolphins \$8.6 million was upheld Tuesday by a federal judge, who rejected arguments that the award disregarded Florida law.



Bettman said the sides "weren't as close as people were speculating."

# Lost: Fallout from canceled season is widespread

LOST, FROM BACK PAGE

"This is a tragedy for the players," Bettman said. "Their careers are short and this is money and opportunity they'll never get back."

And who knows when Canadian phenom Sidney Crosby will be able to get into the league, or what team he'll play for. Since there was no season, there probably won't be an entry draft in June.

An agreement must be in place for the draft to be held, and there is no clear-cut way to determine the picking order once a deal is

reached. Washington had the No. 1 selection last year and grabbed Russian sensation Alexander Ovechkin. No doubt the Capitals would love to pick first again and take Crosby.

Taking a year off, or more, will only push the league further off the radar screen.

But this season in 1998 when NHL teams began preparing for this possibility by creating a \$300 million war chest. The collective bargaining agreement that expired on Sept. 15 was extended twice after it was original-

ly signed in 1994. That allowed for the NHL to complete its expansion plans without an interruption of play.

"We lived through a decade of a collective bargaining agreement that didn't work," Bettman said. "It doesn't matter whose fault it was."

A year ago, pessimists said that at least one season was sure to be lost and that two was not out of the question.

"We never doubted that the union had the support and the backing of its players," Bettman

said. "I hope when this is over they'll think that it's worth it."

Responding to the union's last offer on Tuesday, Bettman said in his second letter of the day to NHLPA executive director Bob Goodenow, "If every team spent by the \$49 million ... total player compensation would exceed what we spent last season. We cannot afford your proposal."

Goodenow disputed Bettman's claim in a letter, taking a hard-line stance and replying, "You will receive nothing further from us."



AP

Pedro Martinez shortened his offseason to be in peak condition this year.

## Mets' Martinez hopes workouts will pay off

BY MIKE FITZPATRICK  
The Associated Press

PORT ST. LUCIE, Fla. — Sitting atop a temporary locker in a minor league clubhouse was Pedro Martinez's bag.

A Boston Red Sox bag. "Just needed to bring my stuff," a smiling Martinez explained Tuesday. "I have my Mets bag."

He has a plan, too: to be in peak condition for his first season in New York.

That means the entire season, 30-plus starts, from frigid April through the hot summer and perhaps into the playoffs.

So the three-time Cy Young Award winner plunged into a rigorous workout regimen long before spring training, which officially begins Friday with the first scheduled practice for pitchers, catchers and players coming off injuries.

He showed up at camp last week — 10 days early — and was back at the Mets' complex Tuesday, playing long toss on a minor league field before spending hours in the weight room.

Already he's thrilled with New York's strength and conditioning program.

"What really caught my attention the most is how hard they work — so early," Martinez said. "I know I'm going to get a full workout here. No nursing here."

With a slight build at 5-foot-11, 170 pounds, the 33-year-old Martinez says his routine consists of little heavy lifting but lots of reps, designed to build arm strength and endurance.

He likes to throw every day and have three side sessions off a mound per week.

And this winter, he took only 21 days off after the season — usually he gives himself a month before getting back to work.

No doubt about it, Martinez is determined to make a good impression with the Mets after leaving Boston for a \$53 million, four-year contract. He's not going over National League scouting reports just yet, but is trying to develop a rapport with pitching coach Rick Peterson.

"I'm already settled," Martinez said. "It doesn't take much. It just takes a few practices." Blessed with a baffling assortment of pitches — pinpoint fastball, knee-buckling curve and deceptive changeup — Martinez knows even the most talented pitchers must work harder as they age if they expect to keep winning.

He also knows he's going to command all kinds of attention in the Big Apple, even during the normally quiet days before spring training opens.

"I'm never used to fame. I'm never used to being an icon. But I'm here to deal with it," Martinez said. "I'm here to be watched, to be honest. It's part of the package and I understand."

For that, the Mets can surely forgive a Red Sox bag or two.



AP

Pitcher Derek Lowe, who won all three playoff clinchers in the Boston Red Sox's run to the World Series title last season, signed with the Los Angeles Dodgers as a free agent during the offseason.

## Changing Sox

### Series champs have new look for spring

BY HOWARD ULMAN  
The Associated Press

FORT MYERS, Fla. — The championship banners have arrived, the pitcher who won all three clinching games in the postseason finally left and the Boston Red Sox face a season that will be far different than any since 1919. For the first time in 86 years, the Red Sox begin spring training as World Series winners — a status proclaimed by the banners hanging from lampposts outside of City of Palms Park. And they'll do it without Derek Lowe.

The Red Sox allowed the Fort Myers resident to train at the stadium. He threw his last pitches there Tuesday and planned to drive Wednesday to Vero Beach, home of the Los Angeles Dodgers — who signed him as a free agent.

He'll be just a spectator when the Red Sox open their season April 5 against the Yankees in New York.

"I'm going to be sitting in San Francisco watching them play on TV," Lowe said. "Now I'm a fan watching these guys play. Now you've got to watch [Curt] Schilling and [Randy] Johnson, opening night, Yankees-Red Sox, and not be part of it..."

It won't be the same, just like the rest of the new season.

Pedro Martinez left for the New York Mets and David Wells, Matt Clement and Wade Miller arrived to fill out the revamped rotation.

Edgar Renteria, who grounded into the last out of Boston's four-game World Series sweep against St. Louis, is the Red Sox new shortstop.

Right fielder Trot Nixon hopes the Red Sox's desire will be the same even after they won their championship with the greatest postseason comeback in baseball history.

"I'd be real disappointed if guys came in thinking" they could slack off, Nixon said. "Once January came around you, should realize that, hey, this is my profession. This is what I love to do. I don't want to play and then retire after winning a championship."

Even Lowe, who was disappointed with the way his seven full seasons with the Red Sox ended without a solid offer from the club, wished them well.

"You root for the guys," he said. "You hope they stay healthy. You hope they have a good year. You hope they get to the World Series. There's no bitterness toward the players because these guys are great guys."

"It wasn't their decision why [I'm] not here, so why wish bad things upon them?"

Manager Terry Francona said Tuesday "I was really proud of him" in the postseason and Lowe thanked the Red Sox for letting him work out in their stadium.

Their pitchers and catchers are due to report Thursday. The entire team is due in Monday, with the first full-squad workout next Tuesday.

Lowe figured his days were numbered back in July when the Red Sox shopped him around before the trading deadline. When he was left out of the playoff rotation, he had more incentive to finish his Boston career on a high note.

"In any profession, when somebody tells you you can't do something, it motivates you to go out there and prove that you can," Lowe said.

That's something he shares with his former teammates.

The Red Sox won the World Series, but baseball magazines have picked them to finish second in the AL East behind the Yankees for the eighth straight season. On paper, their rotation seems weaker than New York's.

Nixon was the only returning player from last year's championship team at the ballpark on Tuesday. Pitchers Miller and Matt Mantel, both acquired in the offseason, also have been working out. Miller is coming back from an injury-plagued season.

The heightened emphasis on steroids is another addition to spring training. Nixon is Boston's player representative and said the attention won't last long on Jose Canseco's book released this week in which he alleges steroid use by certain players.

"I don't care about Jose's book," he said. "It's another black eye for baseball a little bit, but I think it's just a black eye before spring training and the minute the boys start showing up for camp, it's going to be long gone and not talked about anymore."

Instead, Boston's focus will be on trying to win consecutive championships.

"I'm a greedy person. I want as many as I possibly can get," Nixon said. "I want to be one of those guys also that has an opportunity to take a picture and have four or five rings on my finger with this team."

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# Questions about steroids hover as first camps open

BY RONALD BLUM  
The Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Not even the first day of pitchers and catchers could supplant the talk of steroids and syringes in baseball.

Steroids were the No. 1 topic Tuesday, when the new Washington Nationals, the New York Yankees and the Cincinnati Reds opened camp.

"It doesn't go away, unfortunately," Yankees manager Joe Torre said.

Seven more teams were to report to spring training Wednesday, and workouts begin Thursday — 45 days before the World Series champion Boston Red Sox and Yankees play the major league opener April 3. The Minnesota Twins will be the last team to report, on Sunday.

Ken Griffey Jr. ran for the Reds' medical staff in Sarasota, showing how far he has recovered from surgery on his torn right hamstring. Pedro Martinez, an early arrival at the New York Mets' camp, worked out in Port St. Lucie. And Troy Nixon kept up the Yankees-Red Sox sniping, saying of Alex Rodriguez, "He can't stand up to [Derek] Jeter in my book or Bernie Williams or [Jorge] Posada."

The Nationals had the most contentious journey to spring training. After 36 seasons as the Montreal Expos, the team morphed into Washington's first major league team since the expansion Senators became the Texas Rangers after the 1971 season.

Owned by Major League Baseball since early 2002, the team was uncertain of its fate for three seasons before the move to the nation's capital was finalized in December.

"It's been a long journey," catcher Brian Schneider said. "We've wanted this for a while, and it's here now. We're ready for it, that's for sure."

As camps opened, there was a new steroid report. The New York daily News said Tuesday that an FBI agent in Ann Arbor, Mich., told baseball security head



Author and former major leaguer Jose Canseco talks with radio hosts Rob Dibble and Kevin Kennedy about his book "Juiced: Wild Times, Rampant 'Roids, Smash Hits & How Baseball Got Big" on Tuesday during the debut of XM Satellite Radio's MLB Home Plate channel in Los Angeles.

Kevin Hallinan about 10 years ago that Jose Canseco and other players were using illegal anabolic steroids.

"I alerted Major League Baseball back in the time when we had a case, that Canseco was a heavy user and that they should be aware of it," Special Agent Greg Stejskal was quoted as saying. "I spoke to the people in their security office, Hallinan was one of the people I spoke to."

Calls to Stejskal's office in Ann Arbor and to FBI headquarters in Washington were referred to the Detroit FBI office, where spokeswoman Dawn Clemeney said Stejskal and the agency would have nothing to say.

"I don't think I was off-base with anything I said," Stejskal told the Daily News in Wednesday's editions.

Hallinan was traveling and didn't return telephone calls seeking comment. He told the News he never was contacted then about steroid use.

"I can't understand why Kevin reacted so vehemently, and I'm sorry that Kevin put himself in that position to be so angry," Stejskal said.

"I have absolute confidence in his integrity," Sandy Alderson, executive vice president for baseball operations in the commissioner's office, said of Hallinan. "We are looking into the situation described by the agent to see if we can figure out what exactly took place. There may have been someone else talked to. There are a number of possibilities. We want to see if there is some reasonable view of his explanation and Kevin's."

Canseco's autobiography, published this week, accused the Yankees' Jason Giambi and others of using steroids.

"He's my biggest question mark this spring," Torre said. "We have to see what kind of player he is."

Still, baseball's new drug-testing agreement — calling for

harsher penalties and more frequent testing — remains in the drafting phase. Baseball management expects the new rules to be in place by the mandatory reporting date, March 1.

"I know that we were well on our way to having serious steroid testing, drug testing, and we still are and we didn't need a book to come out and tell us that we needed to do something," Nixon said.

Baltimore shortstop Miguel Tejada, among the players accused by Canseco, denied that he used steroids.

"Any inference made by Jose Canseco that I used steroids is complete false," Tejada said in a statement. "I barely knew Jose during his career, so it is ridiculous for him to suggest we ever had discussions regarding their use."

Gary Sheffield, who said last October he unwittingly used substances that contained steroids told the Daily News and New York Post at Yankees camp he

never admitted to using steroids.

"When people sit here and say I didn't know I took steroids — I didn't take steroids," he told the News for Wednesday's editions.

"The bottom line is I put rubbing cream on my leg, and if somebody says that the steroids, that's a bunch of hogwash."

"People are going to put a spin on whatever they're going to put a spin on. ... I'm not like Jason Giambi, I'm not going to sit here and cry about things being unfair or attacks are unfair."

Sheffield said Giambi will probably face some abuse from fans during the season.

"He has to go through it," Sheffield said of his teammate.

"He's the reason he's going through it, but that's part of it. I don't think anybody will give you pats on the back."

At Boston's camp in Fort Myers, Nixon wasted little time in adding some bait under baseball's most heated rivalry, joining Curt Schilling in criticizing Rodriguez.

"He's done some great things on the field. He's one of the best baseball players in the game and probably will be when it's all said and done," Nixon said. "But when people ask me about the Yankees, I tell them about Jeter and Bernie Williams and Posada. I don't tell them about Rodriguez."

Rodriguez's spokesman, Steve Fortunato, said he couldn't reach A-Rod for comment.

As for Griffey, the Reds will have a better idea of his strength and flexibility after he has a physical Wednesday. The 35-year-old center fielder tore the hamstring from the bone while making a sliding play in the outfield last August. Doctors reattached his hamstring using three screws.

Across the state, Martinez showed up at camp last week — 10 days early — and was back at the Mets' complex Tuesday, playing long toss on a minor league field before spending hours in the weight room.

"What really caught my attention the most is how hard they work — so early on," he said. "I know I'm going to get a full workout here. No nursing here."

## Anaheim appeals injunction denial in Angels name change

The Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Council members voted Tuesday to appeal a judge's refusal to grant a preliminary injunction to the city in its attempt to block the Angels from adding Los Angeles to their name.

The team, formerly the Anaheim Angels, is now called the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim. "We recognize that most preliminary appeals are not successful, but ... this decision merits further review," the city said Tuesday, saying every available legal means to obtain the benefits that were promised the people of Anaheim under



### Briefs

the contract in 1996," Mayor Curt Pringle said in a statement.

Superior Court Judge Peter Polos last month also denied a request for a temporary restraining order after the city sued the Angels, claiming the name switch would violate the team's lease of the stadium. The judge, however, said that the contract requires only that Anaheim be included in the name.

"We regret that Arte Moreno and the Anaheim Angels' manage-

ment have forced us to pursue this lawsuit and continue to explore him to reconsider this misguided marketing effort," Pringle said.

A phone call to Angels spokesman Tim Mead seeking comment was not immediately returned. The team has maintained that the new name would attract more fans, advertisers and broadcast contracts by emphasizing its connection to the nation's second-largest media market.

**Managers pitching prospect Blackley out for season**

SEATTLE — Seattle Mariners pitching prospect Travis Blackley

will miss the entire season after having surgery last week to repair two tears in the labrum of his throwing shoulder.

Blackley was 1-3 with a 10.04 ERA last season before he was sent down to Triple-A Tacoma. The left-hander finished the season on the disabled list.

Doctors wanted Blackley to rest and rehabilitate the shoulder over the winter but his pain never went away. During an exam last week, renowned shoulder specialist Dr. Lewis Yocum determined surgery was needed.

The 22-year-old Blackley was 17-3 in 2003 at Double-A San Antonio, and 8-6 with a 3.83 ERA last season for Tacoma.

### Red Sox add reliever, infielder

FORT MYERS, Fla. — The Boston Red Sox signed right-handed reliever Denney Tomori, a 14-year veteran of baseball in Japan, and acquired infielder Alejandro Machado from the Washington Nationals on Tuesday.

Tomori, 37, agreed to a one-year minor-league contract with an invitation to the major-league team's spring training camp. In 360 games with three Japanese teams, he is 18-28 with 30 saves and a 3.96 ERA.

Machado, a 22-year-old switch hitter, was acquired for a player to be named or cash considerations.



# HOME TEAM

## A WEEKLY LOOK AT LOCAL SPORTS

# Warriors' Gagnon ready to go

## Wiesbaden wrestler overcomes injuries, surgeries in title pursuit

BY RUSTY BRYAN  
Stars and Stripes

WIESBADEN, Germany — Considering what Wiesbaden senior Tony Gagnon has been through in the past year, wrestling in this weekend's European championships might seem like a walk in the park.

Last season, Gagnon dropped a 5-4 decision in overtime in the 154-pound final. Still, the second-place finish was remarkable because he wrestled all season with a torn anterior cruciate ligament and a 6-inch titanium plate in his leg to heal a fracture suffered while playing football.

Gagnon, 18, then had an operation to repair the torn ligament and underwent jaw surgery, which required him to forgo solid food for six weeks.

Because of all his injuries and surgeries, Gagnon didn't start physical training until October — he missed his senior football season.

But Gagnon took it all in stride, making what contributions he could.

"When he got hurt, he was still there at [football] practice with the team every day," Wiesbaden football and wrestling coach Steve Jewell said. "Most kids

### European wrestling championships

When Wrestling begins at 10 a.m. Friday, and at 10:30 a.m. Saturday.  
Where: Wiesbaden Army Airfield gym.  
Admission: Both days — \$5 adults, \$2 students; daily — \$3 adults, \$2 students.  
At stake: Individual crowns in 13 weight classes and divisional team trophies.  
Returning champions: Jonathan Scott, London Central; Jesse Painter, Würzburg; Michael Monaco, Naples; Karl Saucier, Ramstein; Andrew Zachar, Heidelberg. Seedings for all weight classes will be released on Thursday.

don't do that. They skip practice, saying they have to rehab. Tony didn't. He's the ultimate team player."

In December, Gagnon finally returned to the wrestling mats.

"I was inhibited from using some moves," he said about going into competition with a surgically rebuilt knee, "but I was surprised at how well it held up."

So was his doctor.

"The doctor said there was some risk of serious long-term injury," said Gagnon, who took up wrestling as a Vienna seventh-grader and who's been at Wiesbaden for his entire high school career.

"Had I known that before I started wrestling again, I would have quit."

Instead of quitting, Gagnon has



RAYMOND T. CONWAY/Stars and Stripes

Wiesbaden's Tony Gagnon, top, tries to flip Heidelberg's Jeremy Brady during the 2004 DODDS Division I championships in Schweinfurt, Germany. Gagnon won the Div. I title last year despite wrestling with a torn ACL.

put himself in position to win the 145-pound European title that eluded him last year. He credits his teammates for bringing him back to that point.

"I'd have to say that Matt Alexander is responsible for 50 percent of where I am," Gagnon said of his three-year wrestling partner, Wiesbaden's 160-pounder.

Also helping, Gagnon said, were Wiesbaden 189-pound contender Chad Abramson, whose height, strength and quickness provide a severe challenge, and 275-pound Gregg Surpris, who provides encouragement and tension-breaking humor.

"We're best friends," Gagnon said of the wrestling quartet.

Alexander said the benefits of quality opposition in practice run both ways.

"His technique is really good," Alexander said. "Normally in Europe, wrestlers with good technique are really dispersed in different schools. Getting to wrestle

someone that good every day is a real advantage."

Gagnon said he finds another advantage in film study.

"I love to watch tape," he said. "I've have a specific plan for each man I wrestle, based on weaknesses I've seen that I can exploit."

Although Gagnon says "basics, basics, basics" are the keys to victory, Jewell sees plenty of creativity in Gagnon.

"He understands the sport," Jewell said. "When he sticks a guy, it's never the same way twice. I'll ask him about the move and he'll say, 'It's just something I saw.'"

In the 145-pound class this weekend at the Wiesbaden Army Airfield gym, Gagnon will see tough competition from the other regional champs: defending 140-pound champion Karl Saucier of Ramstein; Alconbury's Kyle Lucas; and Vicenza's Gary King. "Whatever he gets," Jewell said, "he deserves."

E-mail Rusty Bryan at: [bryan@mail.estrupes.osd.mil](mailto:bryan@mail.estrupes.osd.mil)

### This week's schedule

Basketball

(Boys and girls at same sites unless otherwise indicated)

Friday

Division I — Kaiserslautern at Würzburg; Wiesbaden at Wiesbaden.

Division II — Mannheim at Bittburg; Hanau at Schöckel at Wiesbaden.

Division III — Bamberg at Ansbach (Bilgheim).

Italy — Signonella at Naples.

Interdivisional — London Central at Lakenheath; Lakenheath JV at Alconbury.

Saturday

Division I — Wiesbaden at Kaiserslautern; Heidelberg at Würzburg; Bittburg at Wiesbaden.

Division II — Ansbach at Bamberg.

Italy — Signonella at Naples.

Interdivisional — Lakenheath at London Central; Hanau at Bittburg; Lakenheath JV at Alconbury.

Wednesday-Saturday, Feb. 26

Division I, II, III and IV championships at Mannheim.

Wrestling

Friday and Saturday

European championships at Wiesbaden Army Airfield.

Game of the week

What: Ansbach-Bamberg boys basketball.

When and where: 7 p.m. Friday at Bittburg.

5 p.m. Saturday at Bamberg High School.

What's at stake: Division III-South regional championship.

Both teams are 6-0 in league play, and whoever wins between these longtime foes likely will be the top seed for the European Division II tournament Feb. 26-27 at Mannheim. If the teams split, the winner will be decided by points differential.

"It's all about seeding," said Bamberg's Chuck Jenkins, who has been coaching against Ansbach's Ted Marr for more than 10 years. "We've been at it for years. Whoever makes the fewest errors and turns around wins."

Despite the longtime rivalry between the two schools, Marr said he didn't know exactly what to expect from Bamberg.

"We'll play straight-up with them," he said, "and concentrate on the one who's scoring."

Some of the season, that would be Carlos Zapata, who averages 15 points per game. Last Saturday, however, sophomore Dillon Baker stepped forward to can 22 points in 16 minutes over visiting Baumholder.

"He had the hot hand," Jordan said. "We had the hot hand, too. When one guy's hot, we get the ball to him."

Wiesbaden's Steve Bailey, who can score extraordinarily, led by Europe's best players. Wiesbaden's who's averaging more than 26 points per game and has scored 10 or more in 10 of 10 games in Ansbach's 6-0 victory over the Panthers on Feb. 5.

"We will play them very deliberately," said Jordan, whose Barons won't be the last time they usually have a win.

## ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

### James Horst Wrestling Ramstein

Last week: The third time proved to be a charm Saturday for Ramstein's 275-pounder, who defeated Patrick's Brian Bowles 5-3 in the Ramstein sectionals.

"This was a big match for [Horst]," said Ramstein coach Dave Izzo, whose wrestlers claimed 14 of the 26 automatic berths for this weekend's European championships. "He had lost twice to him before."

Bowles, the reigning European bronze medalist at 215, had beaten Horst 5-3 the last time the two wrestled. Change was in the air in this cliff-hanger.

"When you wrestle somebody for the third time, you pick things up," Izzo said. "He found something that worked for him."

The victory left Horst, sixth in Horst at 275 last season, with a 14-2 record, along with a bit of a mental upper hand over a wrestler who's among the major contenders for the 275-pound title at Europeans.

"It definitely should put him in a good position for the seedings," Izzo said.

Selected by Stars and Stripes staff.

### Keisha Hunt Girls basketball Alconbury

Last week: Hunt, a senior forward who's averaging 14 points per game, led her team to a sweep of Brussels last weekend.

With her team needing two victories to have a shot at the Division II-North crown — and trailing 30-29 in the game's closing seconds Friday night — Hunt stole the ball, drew a foul and sank both free throws to give Alconbury a 31-30 victory.

On Saturday, teamed with four sophomores, she scored 17 points as Alconbury nailed down its improbable league crown with a 43-17 triumph.

"She really stepped up and took control of the game early," said Alconbury coach Tom Stafford, "allowing us to get a comfortable lead for the inexperienced sophomores."

Hunt's performance came as no surprise to Stafford, in his first season as Alconbury's coach.

"She has been our 'go-to' girl all season," he said. "She has developed a nice outside jumper and has learned to take the ball to the hoop against her opponents."

Selected by Stars and Stripes staff.



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# Wake gets defensive in victory over Miami

The Associated Press

CORAL GABLES, Fla. — Wake Forest's potent offense misfired Tuesday night, so the Demon Deacons relied on defense for a change.

By holding Miami to 33 percent shooting in the second half, No. 5 Wake Forest won 68-63 to retain its lead in the Atlantic Coast Conference.

"We're used to running, scoring in the 80s and the 90s," guard Chris Paul said. "Tonight we did just enough to win. I think it really shows how far along our team is."

The Demon Deacons enjoyed their biggest lead at 61-53 with 4½ minutes left. Miami rallied and had one shot to tie, but Anthony Harris' 22-footer fell short with 5 seconds to go.

Wake Forest (22-10, 2) earned its sixth straight win, a streak that includes two victories over Miami (15-8, 6-6).

The Demon Deacons reached 10 conference victories for only the second time in the past eight seasons. The latest win came even though Wake Forest had its lowest point total since December, 18 points shy of its average of 86 per game.

"Usually we can score," coach Skip Prosser said. "Tonight when we didn't, our defense carried the day. It's nice to talk about a game we won because of how we guarded."

The Hurricanes shot 47 percent in the first half but finished at 39, shooting 12-for-36 in the second half. They finished 3-for-18 from three-point range, making 13 three-pointers in a loss at Wake Forest last month.

"We knew they were really good three-point shooters," Demon Deacons center Eric Williams said. "We tried to take the three away from them. We just decided that if they wanted to drive, because we weren't going to let them away any three."

Williams and Paul each scored 13 points for the Demon Deacons, and Justin Gray added 11.

"Miami had a great night shooting the ball, but found a way to win," Demon coach Frank Haith said. "That shows they're a top-notch team. They're experienced, and they come at you in waves—they're a deep ballclub."

Guillermo Diaz led the Hurricanes with 20 points. Harris added 14 but was limited to 23 minutes because of cramps. Robert E. H. totaled six, 12 below his average.

Taron Downey hit a three-pointer to put Wake Forest ahead to stay, 47-44 midway through the

## Men's Top 25 Roundup

second half. Gray's three-pointer made it 59-53, and Trent Strickland then scored to put the Demon Deacons up by eight points on the first time.

Hite intercepted a pass and made the ensuing layup to cut the margin to 63-59, and Diaz hit two free throws to make it 63-61 with 1:32 to go.

Paul sliced through the lane for a layup, and Diaz scored again for Miami to make it 65-63 with 20 seconds to go. Strickland made one of two free throws, but Harris missed over Jamaal Leary from beyond the top of the key.

"I saw that it was going straight to the goal, and I thought it might go in," Levy said. "But it came up short."

Gray sank two free throws with 33 seconds remaining to clinch the victory.

"We're playing right now like we have a lot to lose," Williams said. "We didn't come out squeaky clean, but we found a way to win. I think that's our mentality right now: We're fighting for something, and we're just going to keep fighting."

**No. 18 Connecticut 94, Providence 89 (20T):** Charlie Villanueva had 22 points and 10 rebounds to lead the visiting Huskies (16-6, 8-3 Big East), who scored in the first seven minutes of the second overtime. Marcus Williams had 15 points and 13 assists and Josh Boone had 11 points and 10 rebounds for UConn, which was coming off a loss to then-No. 2 North Carolina.

The Huskies were again without leading scorer Rashad Anderson, who's hospitalized as he recovers from an infection in his leg.

Ryan Gomes, a first-team All-America last season as a junior, scored a career-high 37 points—including all of the Friars' 11 in the second overtime—to go over the 2,000-point milestone in his career. Providence (11-14, 1-10) was coming off its only conference win of the season.

**No. 25 Villanova 89, Bucknell 51:** Allan Ray scored 23 points to lead the Wildcats (15-6) to their biggest win of the season just three days after they were handed their worst loss by No. 9 Syracuse.

Chris McNaughton had 17 points for the visiting Bisons (17-8), who beat then-No. 10 Pittsburgh and Saint Joseph's this season.

# S. Carolina celebrates rare win over Kentucky

BY JACOB JORDAN

The Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Tarence Kinsey had such a good time during South Carolina's 73-61 upset of No. 3 Kentucky on Tuesday night he wanted a do-over.

"I wish we could play it again. I had fun tonight," said Kinsey, who scored 17 points.

Carlos Powell added 12 in the second half to lead the Gamecocks to the rare victory over the Wildcats. "It's the biggest win in my career," said Powell, a senior who is hoping to lead the Gamecocks to their second straight NCAA tournament.

It was the first home win for the Gamecocks (14-8, 6-5 Southeastern Conference) over the Wildcats (19-3, 10-1) since 1997, and it was just South Carolina's sixth victory in 41 meetings against Kentucky, which never looked in synch.

Pans poured onto the court after the victory, arguably South Carolina's best in coach Dave Odom's tenure, and Kinsey stood on press row, slapping high-fives with celebrating students.

He was later apologetic, saying he couldn't find his way to the locker room—but it was obvious he was overcome with excitement.

"They were going to run over me," he said with a smile.

The Wildcats, who had won 19 straight games against SEC opponents, had a season-high 21 turnovers, and Chuck Hayes was held to just one point. Kelenna Azubuike led Kentucky with 16 points—five in the second half.

"You've got to make some shots. We had open threes," Kentucky coach Tubby Smith said.

The Wildcats shot just 26.1 percent (6-for-23) from behind the arc. They also struggled from the free-throw line, making 65.5 percent.

"It's frustrating," Azubuike said. "We can't get down on ourselves."

The near capacity crowd finally had something to cheer about after the Gamecocks' disappointing 74-71 home loss to Auburn on Saturday. South Carolina added a high-profile win as it attempts to build its NCAA tournament résumé. The Gamecocks were 0-4 against ranked opponents coming into Tuesday's matchup, but they still have a game against No. 18 Alabama on Saturday.

"I don't really know how that works," Tisbury said of making the tournament. But "we just got tired of losing close games."

The Gamecocks lost games to Kansas and Pittsburgh earlier this season, both by four points.

South Carolina built a 58-45 lead with 4:16 left after an 8-0 run and the Wildcats never seriously threatened again. The run featured a three-point play and dunk from Powell, the Gamecocks' leading scorer who had been held to just two points in the first half.

South Carolina pounded the ball inside to Powell, and Kentucky had no answer. Powell also credited the Gamecocks' mix of defenses.

The Gamecocks built a 12-point lead on some key long-range shooting by Kinsey, who was averaging 9.5 points a game. His fourth three of the game brought the crowd to its feet midway through the second half. Kinsey finished with five threes, a career-high.

On the next trip down, he missed a shot, but Antoine Tisbury followed with a dunk to cap a 13-2 run with 13:28 left in the first half.

It was Tisbury's best game of the season. He had played just 8 minutes in the past five games, and



South Carolina's Tarence Kinsey celebrates after hitting a three-pointer during the second half against Kentucky. Kinsey had 17 points in the upset.

didn't even make the trip to South Carolina's Jan. 29 game at Florida.

Odom told him Sunday it was time for him to get into the rotation, and he provided an energetic spark and 13 points off the bench.

"I don't know how many more chances you're going to get, but I'm going to give you one Tuesday night," Odom recalled telling the junior.

Kinsey couldn't make any key shots to get a run going in the second half, and could have been hung over from a sluggish nine-point win against Georgia over the weekend, after which Smith told his team he was ashamed of them.

"Coach Odom had his team ready to play. They pretty much outworked us in most areas and really controlled the tempo of the game," Smith said. "They just seemed like they wanted it more than we did."

Kinsey cut the lead to six with 10 minutes to go, but Rocky Trice's layup with 8:15 to go gave the Gamecocks a 48-38 lead.

Kinsey had 11 turnovers in the first half, which is just shy of the Wildcats' 12.9 average per game. They shot just 40 percent (8-for-20) from the field.

Smith tried to find a spark by benching his starters, which he did against Georgia last Saturday, but he didn't get the boost the Wildcats needed. Azubuike had 11 points in the first half, but Hayes was held to just a free throw.

The Gamecocks weren't much better, even though they led 25-23 at halftime. South Carolina shot 36.7 percent (11-for-30) from the field, including 2-for-10 on three-pointers.

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## SPORTS



Bills say they will cut Bledsoe and give first-round pick Losman the starting QB job, Page 46

## Ice capades end in lost season

With owners, players \$6.5 M apart on cap ceiling, sides can't make a deal

BY IRA PODELL  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The NHL canceled what little was left of the season Wednesday after a series of last-minute offers were rejected on the final day of negotiations.

A lockout over a salary cap shut down the game before it started in October. Now the NHL, already low on the popularity scale in the United States, becomes the first major pro sports league in North America to lose a season to a labor dispute.

"As I stand before you today, it is my sad duty to announce ... it no longer is practical to conduct even an abbreviated season," Commissioner Gary Bettman said. "Accordingly, I have no choice but to announce the formal cancellation of play for 2004-05."

"This is a sad, regrettable day that all of us wish could have been avoided," he said.

Bettman said the sides would continue working to get an agreement.

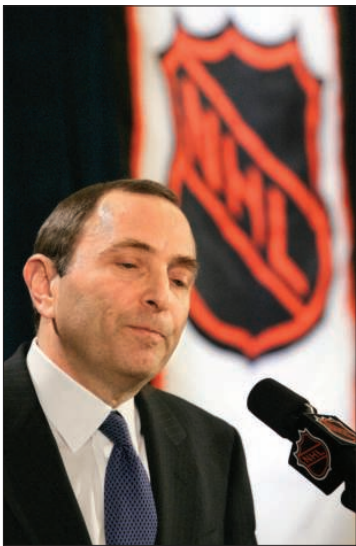
"We're planning to have hockey next season," he said.

The union scheduled a news conference later Wednesday in Toronto.

"The scary part now for hockey is do the fans come back? We're not baseball, we're not the national pastime," Nashville Predators forward Jim McKenzie said.

The league and players' union traded a flurry of proposals and letters Tuesday night, but could never agree on a cap. The players proposed \$49 million per team; the owners said \$42.5 million. But a series of conditions and fine print in both proposals made the offers farther apart than just \$6.5 million per team.

"We weren't as close as people were speculating," Bettman said.



NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman, who represents the owners, said during his news conference on Wednesday that he found it difficult to negotiate with a group that was unaware of the league's economics.

This will be just the second time the Stanley Cup isn't awarded since the league began in 1893; the last was when a flu epidemic forced the finals to be called off. There was a lockout in 1994-95

that ended in time for teams to play 48 games, still more than half the regular season.

"We profoundly regret the suffering this has caused our fans, our business partners and the



Buffalo Sabres defenseman Jay McKee, the team's representative on the players' union, said Tuesday he was not consulted and that NHLPA chief Bob Goodenow did not inform him of the union's changed position on a salary cap.

thousands of people who depend on our industry for their livelihoods," Bettman said.

"If you want to know how I feel, I'll summarize it in one word — terrible," he said.

Before Monday, the idea of a salary cap was a deal-breaker for the players' association, but the union gave in and said it would accept one when the NHL dropped its insistence that there be a link between revenues and player costs.

That still wasn't enough to end the lockout that started on Sept. 16 and ultimately wipes out the 1,230-game schedule and playoffs.



Chicago Blackhawks forward Matthew Barnaby was dismayed about why the players' union accepted a salary cap five months into the lockout. "Something like that you think might have been able to get done in the summer," Barnaby said Tuesday.

Now that offer is off the table. "By necessity, we have to go back to linkage since no one knows what the damage to the

sport will be," Bettman said.

The NHL's last game came in June, when the Tampa Bay Lightning beat Calgary 2-1 in Game 7 to win the Stanley Cup.

Since then, a lot of stars and more than 300 of the league's 700-plus players spent part of this season playing in Europe.

For older players such as Mario Lemieux, Mark Messier and Dominik Hasek, the cancellation might end their careers.

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Wiesbaden's Gagnon finally breaks free of injuries entering Euro championship

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Sox open unique camp; steroids still MLB's hot topic

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Armstrong's quest for a 7th straight Tour de France title is a go this summer

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No. 3 Kentucky taken down at South Carolina

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